

THE STUDY OF  
NUMBER AND  
COUNT

BY  
J. H. KELLY

WITH  
AN APPENDIX BY  
J. H. KELLY

THE STORY OF  
NUMBER FOUR



# THE STORY OF NUMBER FOUR

Being a  
brief summary of the happenings  
in St. John's Lodge  
1875 to 1950

By  
William Douglas  
Past Grand Master

St. John's Lodge No. 4  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba, Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons  
WINNIPEG

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CENTRAL

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To the Brethren of St. John's Lodge No. 4.

G.R.M., A.F. & A.M.

Your officers take pleasure in presenting this very fine history of your Lodge which has been compiled by a very distinguished Mason, our own much beloved Most Worshipful Brother Wm. Douglas. In requesting the preparation of this history we had in mind the value of preserving for future generations the story of our past and of the men who so well and truly laid the foundations of St. John's and also of putting on record the contribution that St. John's has made to Masonry in this jurisdiction.

We all fully appreciate the thoroughness with which this history has been prepared and of the great deal of research required as a preliminary to its presentation. We realize that no one but our Brother Douglas could have done such an efficient job and we are grateful to him.

We believe that this volume will, in addition to being a souvenir of this our 75th Anniversary, be a valuable addition to the history of the Craft in Manitoba and will in years to come be found in all reference libraries dealing with the early life of our Province.

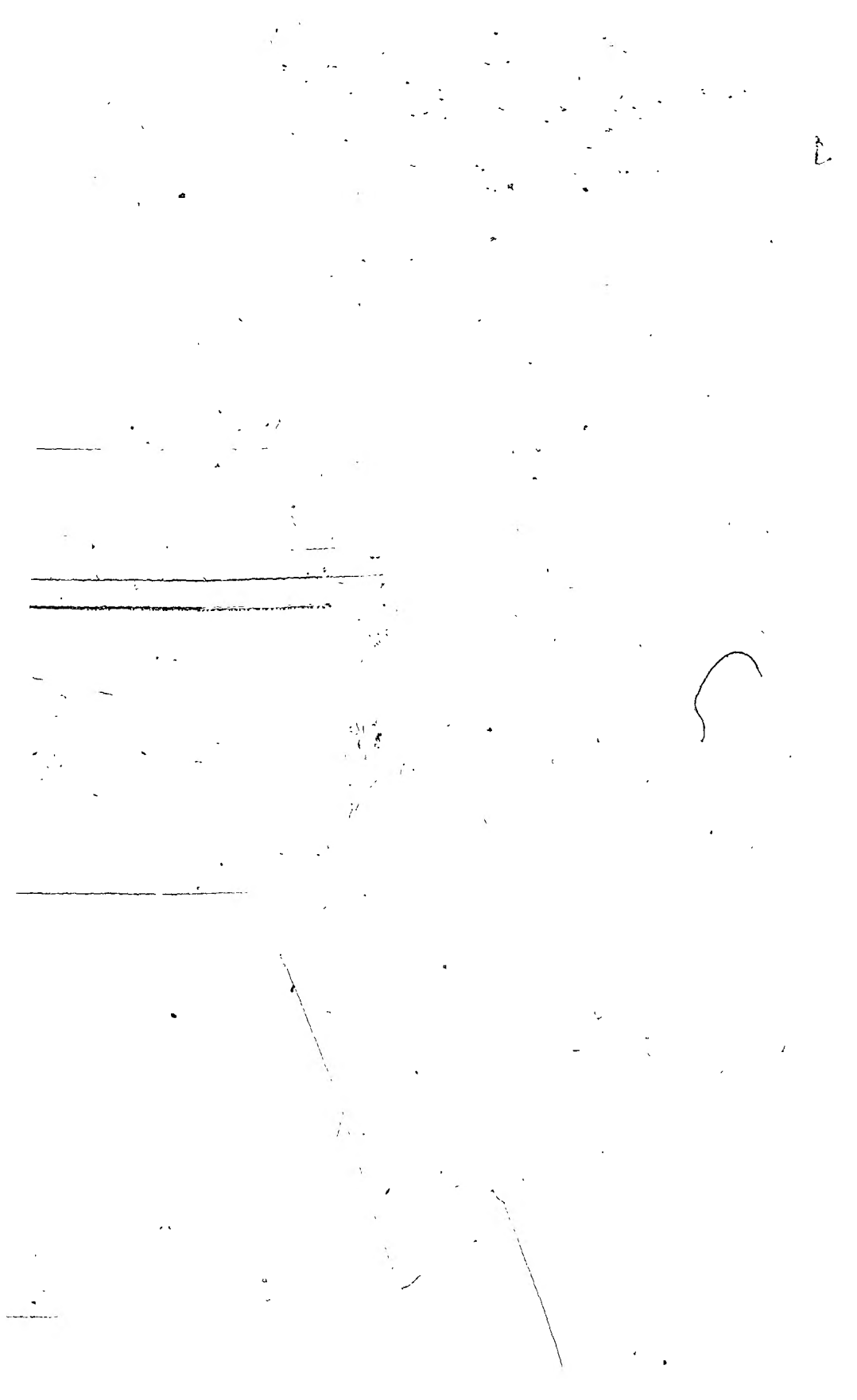
The thanks of us all go to the Author not only for the work of preparing this volume but for the pride he has engendered within us for St. John's Lodge and those brethren who have guided its destiny during the past 75 years and the inspiration we have received to build well on the foundations so well and truly laid.

Fraternally and sincerely yours,

GEORGE P. MACLEOD,

Worshipful Master.

7th November, 1950.





JOHN W. HARRIS  
HONORARY PAST GRAND MASTER







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## FOREWORD

In every lodge we need a day of commemoration in tribute to the hundreds of unknown Masons, forgotten of fame and unsung by poetry, who by love and loyalty built their very selves into the Craft. To this generation their names are lost, save in the memory of God, and they sleep in the indistinguishable dust, content to live in the work they wrought and the good they did.

We have passed the 75th Anniversary of the founding of St. John's Lodge No. 4. In our season of commemoration there floats before us an endless panorama. Silently, we are magically transported across the years. We see again a well-remembered face. Once more we sit in the old familiar seat. The inner chamber of our memory is crammed with scenes, events and voices out of the long ago. This is indeed the spirit of remembrance.

Added to our own feeble expression of praise we have the words of that gifted Mason, Joseph Fort Newton, who on a similar occasion addressed his brethren thus; "We honor ourselves by thus recalling the men of other days, but we lay upon ourselves the obligation to labor, as they labored, with forward looking thoughts, while establishing more firmly the work of their hands. Others have labored; we have entered into their labors, and it behooves us to continue that sacred history.

"Those sturdy men who set up the altar of Masonry on the frontier of this commonwealth were prophetic souls. They were men of faith who builded better than they knew, as men of faith always do. They believed in the future, in the growth of small things from small beginnings, and in the principles of Masonry as the true foundation of society and the fortress of a free state.

"They knew that the Masonic Lodge is a silent partner of the home, the church, and the school-house in toiling in behalf of law and order, without which neither industry nor art can flourish, and that its benign influence would help to build this commonwealth in strength, wisdom and beauty. Therefore they erected their altar and kindled its flame; and having wrought in faithfulness, they died in faith, obeying the injunction of that master poet who said:

'Keep the young generations in hail  
Bequeath to them no tumbled house.'

Time has more than fulfilled their dream; the facts have outrun their faith."

No finer and more appropriate tribute could be applied to the brethren who shaped the destiny and guided the fortunes of St. John's Lodge No. 4 since 1875.

In these pages we merely touch the fringe of a story which if told in its entirety would extend to a full size volume. Let it be understood the contribution made by our pioneer brethren not only to their own Lodge but also to our jurisdiction and their immediate community fully justifies the enlarged publication.

As we read the story of St. John's, since its inception, we feel our brethren of the early days had a keen appreciation of the ideal Masonic Lodge and seem to have had the words of Charles Brockwell ever in mind. What he wrote two centuries ago is just as fresh today as when first penned. "The principal intention of forming societies is undoubtedly the uniting men in stricter bonds of love; for men, considered as social creatures, must derive their happiness from each other; every man being designed by Providence to promote the good of others as he tends his own advantage; and by that intercourse to secure their good offices, by being, as occasion may offer, serviceable to them."

"Because fellowship is a source both of joy and power, because we can do together what we could never do alone, men are drawn together, the better to promote the principle and practice of brotherhood in their own lives and in the life of the world."

The story of our Lodge is but a part of our Masonic heritage. The men of yesterday bequeathed to us a Temple whose foundations were firm and secure. We are the builders of today and may the treasured accomplishments of other days be crowned by greater achievements in the years that lie ahead.

WM. DOUGLAS.

Winnipeg  
24th October, 1950.

# The story of NUMBER FOUR

Being a  
brief summary of the happenings  
in St. John's Lodge  
1875 to 1950

**S**EVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, John Walter Harris, a member of Polar Star Lodge No. 113, Grand Lodge of Iowa, and seventeen other brethren petitioned the Grand Lodge of Manitoba for a Dispensation to form a new lodge in the City of Winnipeg. Grand Lodge had been constituted as a sovereign body only eight short weeks before, on 12th May, 1875, and little delay was occasioned as the prayer of the petitioners was answered and a Dispensation issued on 6th July. Under this authority St. John's Lodge, afterwards to be numbered "4" on the Register, was instituted on Wednesday, 7th July, 1875. The officers named in the certificate of dispensation were John Walter Harris, Worshipful Master, Archibald McNee, Senior Warden, and Stuart McDonald, Junior Warden. The roster of our Charter Members will be found in Appendix "B."

In telling the story of the first Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba it is advisable that we give a brief outline of background concerning the Craft in the Province of Manitoba. The young Mason of today might reasonably ask his elder brother, "When did Freemasonry first make its appearance in organized form in the West?" We take him back to the days when our district had no town or village but was known to the residents of the outside world as Red River Settlement.

Under date of 20th May, 1864, John Christian Schultz as Worshipful Master, Andrew G. B. Bannatyne, Senior Warden,

and William Inkster, Junior Warden, along with five others, obtained a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota authorizing them to open a Lodge to be known as Northern Light Lodge. This pioneer lodge met regularly in a room over the business premises of Brother Andrew Bannatyne, situated near the corner of Main Street and Lombard Street, Winnipeg, until 1869, and several petitioners were initiated, passed and raised in this modest lodge room. For some season which was never disclosed the original lodge ceased its labors about the time of the Riel insurrection, and it was never revived.

Thus, Northern Light Lodge was the first duly instituted lodge in Western Canada. However, far north on the shore of Hudson's Bay, at Churchill, stand the ruins of Fort Prince of Wales, built by the Hudson's Bay Company about 1735-1740. There in the bleak solitude of the North, on the massive stones which were built into the walls of the Fort over two centuries ago, we can, to this day, see the marks of the operative Masons chiselled by them at the time the fort was erected. Who can tell whether or not the operatives of 1735 were Speculative as well as Operative Masons? We are trying to find an answer to the question.

Now let us return to St. John's Lodge which commemorates its 75th Anniversary in 1950.

Writing the story of the early years when the lodge celebrated its 40th Anniversary on 12th May, 1915, our first Worshipful Master told at first hand of the happenings in the formative years of St. John's Lodge. Quoting from his contribution we read, "The principal cause which led to the inauguration of St. John's Lodge was really with a view to meet the wishes of Masons who came from the Maritime Provinces, parts of Western Ontario and elsewhere, where they had been made Masons in Lodges using the Ancient York Rite and who were more familiar with its working than they were with the system known as the 'Canadian.' However, St. John's was only a very young Lodge when Ancient Land-

mark Lodge No. 3, adopted the Ancient York Rite and divided the field with St. John's."

We have no intention of making this memorial booklet a paraphrased edition of our minute books, consequently, many names will not be mentioned and only the highlights of our work as a lodge will be dealt with.

At the time the Lodge celebrated its fortieth anniversary a very interesting booklet dealing with our activities was published. Several copies of this brochure are still in existence but none are available for distribution. To those unable otherwise to secure a copy for reading or reference we would refer them to our Grand Lodge Library where the book can be had on loan. We will only summarize the contents of this book dealing with the period in question, i.e., up to the year 1914.

After the Lodge had been at work for nearly ten years the District Deputy Grand Master (1884) speaks thus of St. John's: "This Lodge cannot have too much praise given to it, but for fear you may accuse me of flattering them, I shall simply say that my sincere wish is that this year, and every succeeding year, may find its work as well done, and its finances in as prosperous a condition, when, if the wish be verified, then it will be a pattern to all the other Lodges. And, if they succeed in their emulation, then Masons in this district will never have to blush for them, and they will be an example for others to follow."

Returning to the article written by M.W. Brother John W. Harris in 1915, we again quote thus: "The growth of St. John's Lodge from 1875 to the present time may be said to have coincided with the development of Manitoba in general, and of the City of Winnipeg in particular. The tide of immigration was making itself felt all over the West; settlements were springing up everywhere. In every new settlement there was almost certain to be one or more 'Brethren of the Mystic Tie,' and these would each form the nucleus of a new Lodge or the strengthening of one already established. Prior to 1881, the

Province was limited to a width between 96th and 99th degrees of west longitude, while its length (north and south) was only a degree and a half of latitude."

"In 1878 the Pembina Branch railway reached St. Boniface, giving Winnipeg direct communication with the outside world by way of St. Paul to the south and east. This did much for the expansion of the Province, although that very expansion culminated in the 'boom' which reached its height in 1881-82. These days are now almost forgotten, and so it may not be out of place if we quote from a Press correspondent of the time. 'The last time I was in Winnipeg, about the time the Canadian Pacific Railway completed its line from the East, and began building the branch roads which have made Winnipeg a railroad centre, it was a scene of the wildest speculation. City lots were selling at higher prices than in Chicago or New York; auctions were held every night on the street corners, and real estate changed hands like railway shares on the stock market'."

"Another visitor at that time is reported to have said, 'Winnipeg has 45 hotels, and 300 boarding houses, and I defy any man twice out of five times to strike a night's lodging'."

We also learn from Brother Harris that "The early part of 1882 witnessed the collapse of the 'boom,' and very high water that spring swept away the Broadway bridge, the only bridge at that date connecting St. Boniface with the City of Winnipeg. However, the flood that was greatly feared by some did not reach the proportions attained by the former floods of 1826 and 1852."

And again, "Before the advent of the railways, the main avenue for the transportation of freight as well as passengers was the Red river, upon which flat bottomed steamboats, accompanied by barges, were very active during open season. In 1875 the Pembina Branch for about 60 miles in length was located on the east side of the Red river. It was graded by Joseph Whitehead, the man who operated the first engine built by Stephenson on the first railway in England. But the work remained in an incomplete condition till the year 1878

when the contract was finished by Upper & Willis. They completed the seven mile gap south to St. Boniface, and by the use of temporary bridges on the line, a train was run over the road on 3rd November, 1878, and Winnipeg was placed in direct railway communication with the outer world, making it possible to travel from Ontario to Winnipeg in three days, instead of, as formerly, more than that many weeks."

The references quoted from the article written by our first Worshipful Master have been embodied in this publication because of their value as a contribution to our community history. Brother Harris was by profession a Land Surveyor and in the early days of Manitoba did a great deal of surveying in a new land. Undoubtedly much of the information written for St. John's 40th Anniversary came from his personal diaries which he scrupulously kept throughout his long life. These valuable contributions to our local history are now lodged in the Archives at Parliament Buildings, Winnipeg, and are available to anyone desirous of examining them.

Twelve months almost to the day of our first anniversary, to be exact, on 5th July, 1876, we read in the minute book of St. John's Lodge, "A communication was read from a number of brethren residing in Emerson, applying to the Grand Lodge of Manitoba for a dispensation and requesting this Lodge (St. John's) to recommend said dispensation to be granted. This was done and on 24th July, 1876, our first daughter Lodge received its Dispensation.

We do not realize in these days of rapid travel the time element which entered into interlodge visits 75 years ago. On the occasion of instituting Emerson Lodge, the then Grand Master, W. N. Kennedy, left Winnipeg by the steamboat "International" on 28th July. The lodge meeting was held on 29th and the visiting Grand Lodge officers arrived back in Winnipeg on 1st August. Today we go by automobile and reach the border town in less than two hours.

Twelve months later a charter was issued to Emerson Lodge and it received number "6" on the Register of Grand Lodge. On this occasion, 21st June, 1877, Emerson Lodge was



constituted by R. W. Brother Jas. Henderson (Ancient Landmark Lodge), assisted by R.W. Brother John W. Harris (St. John's Lodge). This was the first Lodge sponsored by St. John's Lodge and, as we have already indicated, it required a journey by steamboat to reach Emerson and likewise to return to Winnipeg. What a contrast to the recent inter-lodge visits made by the members in our own time.

When St. John's Lodge was first instituted in 1875, the meetings were held in a room over a store owned and operated by Higgins and Young at 434 Main Street. In this small hall the Grand Lodge of Manitoba was also instituted in the same year and these premises were tenanted by all the Winnipeg Lodges until 1880. In the latter year a new business block was erected at the south-east corner of Market Street and Main Street and accommodation was provided for the Masonic Lodges of the City on the top floor. Reporting on the new premises the Grand Secretary had this to say: "Tuesday evening (7th April, 1880) witnessed the rivetting of the last bolt, to speak figuratively, in the circle of brotherly love, which has once more drawn within its circumference the recently divided Craft of this Province. I allude to the union of the four City Lodges: Prince Rupert's Lodge No. 1, Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3, St. John's Lodge No. 4, and Northern Light Lodge No. 10, in the joint occupation of a new, large and commodious hall, situated in the third storey of the Harris Block, opposite the City Hall, and which was solemnly dedicated to Freemasonry on the evening in question by M.W. Grand Master John Headley Bell, assisted by Past Grand Masters, W. N. Kennedy, and Geo. F. Newcomb; Deputy Grand Master E. G. Conklin, and other Grand Lodge Officers.

"The hall is the finest this side of St. Paul, Minn. The lodge room is 25 x 60 and 15 feet high. There is a spacious refreshment room, waiting room, visitors' rest room, and preparation room, all comfortably furnished in a style that, but a short time ago, the most hopeful of the fraternity would have deemed impossible; but where union holds sway, what cannot be accomplished."

Less than three years after the hall just mentioned had been leased by the Winnipeg lodges a disaster occurred; the ceiling fell in, and the brethren were deprived of their meeting place. From our minute book the Secretary of St. John's Lodge thus records the arrangements made following the destruction of the hall. Under date 7th March, 1883, "Nine o'clock, Grand Master and Grand Secretary were received with Grand Honors when they proceeded to dedicate the hall to Masonry." No details whatever are mentioned as to the location of "the hall" then dedicated. At the next regular meeting held on 4th April, 1883, we find another entry in the minute book, and this is equally vague. It reads, "that an order be drawn on the Treasurer in favor of the W. M. of this Lodge for the sum of \$200.00 to pay the proportion of our indebtedness of expenses incurred in connection with fitting up this hall, as our representatives on the room committee deem just to the lodge."

We made a search in the records of the City and discovered the unidentified hall was situated on the top floor of a recently built business block at the north-east corner of Main Street and Lombard Street and significantly it was on the same site that the Bannatyne log building stood in 1864, where the first Masonic Lodge meeting in Manitoba was held.

While on the subject of "meeting places," the hall just referred to was the home of St. John's Lodge until 1888. Here again we find references to the accommodation for meetings in our written records but strangely not a single entry gives the location of still another hall leased in 1888. Let us see what the minute book has to tell us. In the fall of 1887 an entry reads, "A verbal report relative to the Masonic Room Committee negotiating the rental of a new hall." Towards the close of 1887 we read, "authorized the expenditure of \$150.00 as the lodge share of furnishings to include a Brussels carpet at a cost of \$1.40 per yard, laid down in the hall."

A third entry dated April tells us, "an account was presented from the Masonic Room Committee for one month's rent in the old hall and three months' rent in the new hall."

After considerable searching a clue was found which located the "new hall" on the top floor of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company building. The site was that occupied by the City office building of the Canadian National railway at the north-west corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street in 1950. At the time we are reviewing (1888) the membership of St. John's Lodge had reached 122.

Disaster seems to have dogged the brethren in the early days of the City. The lodge room at the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street was our home until 1894 when the entire building was completely destroyed by fire. Many valuable Masonic documents were lost but fortunately the Minute books of St. John's Lodge were not in the building when the fire occurred.

The City Lodges deprived of their meeting place set about, without delay, to work out a plan whereby they could be adequately housed and accommodated. The Masonic Temple Association of Winnipeg was organized. The first President was V.W. Brother Thomas W. Taylor, a Past Master of St. John's Lodge. A site at the corner of Donald Street and Ellice Avenue was secured and the Masonic Temple which still serves the Masonic Craft in Winnipeg was built in 1895 and dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry on 27th December of that year. The members of St. John's Lodge have a special sentimental interest in our Masonic Temple because one of our own Past Masters was the first president of the Association, and the first lodge meeting held in the building was its Regular Meeting on 1st January, 1896. Five candidates were initiated at this historic meeting, namely, John J. Roberts, Charles E. Gate, William Ames, John T. Speirs and Albert S. Lock.

Before continuing the story from this point we must go back a few years and say a few words regarding the period. We do not intend making an individual personal reference to the men who were elected to preside as Worshipful Master year by year. Each had his own qualities and everyone gave of himself to add to the lustre of his Lodge. Times were hard, finances scarce, and difficulties of many kinds confronted them.

How well they overcame these handicaps is illustrated by the position occupied by St. John's Lodge, seventy-five years after the issuance of its Dispensation.

To mention some of the stalwarts of the early days we had Alex Aird, Clerk of the Court at the City Police Station (1890). Two years later that lovable Irishman, J. Thompson Black, was Master and his devotion to the Lodge continued until he passed silently from amongst us in 1939. He was followed by Thomas W. Taylor (1893) whose personal activity was largely responsible for the erection of the Masonic Temple—the building still occupied by many of the City Lodges. Brother Taylor was a good citizen as well as a diligent craftsman, being elected Mayor of the City of Winnipeg and later member for Centre Winnipeg in the Manitoba Legislature. When the several Lodges first occupied the newly built Temple on Donald Street they were confronted with an acute financial situation. Our own lodge was no exception, and it should be remembered the building had been largely financed by personal contributions from the individual brethren and not from lodge finances.

In St. John's Lodge a special committee was set up to study and make suggestions toward improving the condition of our bank account. The report submitted by this committee does not appear very helpful as we examine it today but here is what it contained, (1) making a vigorous effort to collect back dues from members in arrears, (2) endeavor to interest some of the unaffiliated members who had come to reside in the City to connect themselves with St. John's Lodge. It seems strange, when a financial stringency strikes a Masonic Lodge, we seldom find the members willing and ready to augment its resources from the only available source, i.e., by raising the annual dues to meet the annual expense of their Lodge.

The matter of financial difficulties was not confined to the Masonic Lodge. Business conditions in the City and the agricultural returns in the rural part of the Province reflected the same complaint. Looking back on the scene we can see that

it was the loyal devotion of a faithful few that enabled St. John's Lodge to weather the storm. And to their everlasting honor they did the work under distressing conditions in due and ancient form.

A glance at our minute book indicates the wives of our members had little cause for complaint around the year 1896. One meeting was opened at 8:15 p.m. and closed at 9:15 p.m. Another opened at 8:10 and closed at 9 p.m., but the all time record is the meeting that opened at 8:30 p.m. and closed at 9 p.m. All these meetings were regular monthly meetings where the business of the lodge was transacted.

Be it mentioned here that the Worshipful Master in 1896 was William Braden. Among the early officers of the Lodge. Billy, as he was familiarly known, did more than his share of work. He it was who wrote up the Historical Register after a lapse of a great many years, and in office or out, his faithful attendance was conspicuous right through to the end of his days.

It should be mentioned that for some years, about the time we are dealing with, we had Secretaries who were reluctant to commit very much information to the written page. Our minute books are model examples of brevity. Little, if anything, of special interest can be found in the records and we read page after page containing nothing whatever except the routine of receiving petitions, passing accounts, and conferring degrees. If anything of importance to the Craft came before the Lodge then we must remain in ignorance because not a single word is recorded in our books. In 1900 only one emergent meeting was held, while in 1901 not a single emergency arose and we transacted all the business and conferred all the degrees at the regular monthly meetings.

The Worshipful Master elected to serve for the year 1902 was John T. Bragg, now our senior living Past Master. His election brought to St. John's Lodge a vigorous enthusiasm and a desire for greater efficiency in conferring the degrees of Freemasonry. He was a perfect example of being prepared

for his work and he inspired many of the younger members by his careful execution. There was evidence during this year that a revived spirit had entered the lodge and attendance and interest showed a marked increase.

There was a great wave of emigration to Western Canada at the beginning of the century and the population increased at a rapid pace. The effect of this movement was reflected in Masonic circles by an increased addition to our membership by affiliation. With advancing costs confronting all our lodges it was mutually resolved by the City Lodges in 1904, to increase the initiation fee from \$35.00 to \$50.00. This was the first change in the initiation fee since the institution of St. John's in 1875. Another feature which has continued through the years was introduced about this time. We decided to pass the box of fraternal assistance every time the Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred, and the control and disposition of this, "The Master's Fund," is vested wholly with the presiding Worshipful Master. We should mention the Master's chair was very successfully occupied in 1904 by Harry R. Barrett, who after leaving Winnipeg for Regina, Saskatchewan, some years ago, was chosen as the first Master of Banner Lodge in that City.

He was followed by E. Scott Shields whose energy and enthusiasm found expression in many directions. He made a successful effort to bring our older members back to the lodge as "attenders" and it was a pleasure to fraternize with many who had been careless and disinterested for a long time.

This was our thirtieth Anniversary year and it is noted in our minutes that a letter of congratulation and good wishes was sent to our founder, John W. Harris. Later in the year our appreciation of the services rendered by our first Worshipful Master took tangible form when he was presented with a Past District Deputy Grand Master's Apron.

We held no meetings during the summer of 1905, and from that year onward we have considered the summer months a closed season for lodge meetings. As we scan the pages of our

official records we find evidence that the finances of the lodge still continued to be a source of real worry to the officers. The old complaint of "unpaid dues" appears to have dogged the life of St. John's right from the beginning, and one wonders why this should ever happen in any Masonic Lodge.

From the year 1904, we can note a very definite trend of advancement and also improvement. This refers to our finances, our membership, our numbers and the devotion of the members. It is not our purpose to enlarge upon these phases of our lodge life. If we were writing a complete history of St. John's the chapter beginning about 1904 would relate a changed condition and a period of real progress.

The starting point in this forward march can be set when Percy E. Kellett was elected Junior Warden in 1904. He began working out plans for the future of the Lodge while occupying that office. By the time he was installed as Worshipful Master he had a definite idea as to what some of his objectives would be during his term in the Master's chair.

Brother Kellett was responsible for many of the organizational activities still being carried on by the lodge he loved so much. To him can be attributed the creation of the Executive Committee, the first such body set up in a Winnipeg Lodge. This was considered an innovation in certain quarters but the experiment has been adopted in most of the Lodges in the Winnipeg area. This in itself is evidence of its value. He received many honors at the hands of his brethren and was elected District Deputy Grand Master for the Winnipeg District in 1912. It is not surprising that our gifted Past Master was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba in 1917.

The year 1917 marked the bi-centenary of the formation of The Grand Lodge of England. The starting point of modern organized Freemasonry as it exists today was in 1717. At the suggestion of Most Worshipful Brother Kellett, Grand Master, our Grand Lodge organized a campaign to obtain funds to create and establish a Benevolent Fund for the Grand Lodge

of Manitoba. The objective set by the Grand Master and his special committee was \$62,000.00 and when all the coppers were counted and the campaign closed it was reported that more than \$76,000.00 had been paid into the treasury of Grand Lodge. This sum was collected from individual Freemasons and, when added to the \$38,000.00 which had been accumulating over the years, was the basis of the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund. To the everlasting memory of the man whose foresight and energy was responsible for its establishment — Percy E. Kellett — we here record the fact that the capital of his brain child amounts to over \$300,000.00 in the year 1950.

In December, 1906, we were requested to sponsor a new lodge to be opened in the Elmwood district. The name selected by the Charter Members for the new lodge was "Acacia," and it sought concurrent jurisdiction with the other City Lodges. This approval was gladly and willingly granted, and in due course, first the Dispensation, then the Charter, was issued by Grand Lodge. This was the second daughter lodge of St. John's and over the intervening years a friendly, brotherly interest between the two lodges has existed. It is of interest to mention that the Elmwood district did not become a part of the City of Winnipeg until 1906, the same year as Acacia Lodge received its Dispensation.

The brother elected to guide the destiny of the Lodge for 1908 was John G. Hossack, who for several years had been a tower of strength and did yeoman service not only for St. John's Lodge but also the Masonic Temple Association. From the time the Masonic Temple was built and even before that, Lodges, as well as the Temple Association, had an unfortunate habit of running short of money. Our early records indicate that periodically a hurried call was necessary in order to meet some pressing obligation. To the everlasting credit of each succeeding generation we can, with pride and gratitude, face the world as honest men, because despite these temporary financial difficulties all our debts were discharged and there is not a single instance of a Masonic Lodge being dragged into court because of any default. One unfailing method used for



the purpose of augmenting the treasury of the Masonic Temple Association was to increase the rent to the tenant lodges. In this connection our annual rent in 1906 was set at \$450.00.

There was a movement among the City Lodges, about 1907, to increase the initiation fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00. The matter brought an extended discussion when it was brought up in St. John's Lodge but in the end the motion was defeated.

In 1908 the Senior Warden removed to British Columbia and John G. Hossack was re-elected for a second term (1909).

The writer of these rambling notes and reminiscences was elected Worshipful Master for the year 1910. No one recalls more vividly than the same individual with what trembling nervousness he undertook this high office. That remark is sincere and true. But, with a group of talented Past Masters always ready and available, and with officers of sterling quality in the various chairs, he managed his year with a minimum of trouble. There was visible evidence that we had finally overcome the financial difficulties of our earlier years. In conjunction with a jewel of a secretary — W. R. McConnell — these two officers began a systematic conservation of the money reaching the lodge treasury. We had a section in the lodge membership who were determined to lay something aside for the coming rainy days, and at the same time we had others who wanted to dissipate the funds as soon as we had a credit balance in the bank. Fortunately the thrifty section were in the majority and the reserves held to this day had their beginning about 1910. The happy combination of an Irishman and a Scot proved a successful partnership, and between these two stalwart custodians many benefits and more efficient methods were introduced into our lodge affairs. It was a grand period in the life of St. John's. Speaking aside for a moment it is interesting to recall that Brother Douglas induced Brother McConnell to accept the office of Secretary in 1910. When Brother McConnell was elected Master for 1913 he reversed the situation and insisted upon Bill repaying the obligation by accepting the office of Secretary. The Scot could not refuse his Irish friend, having in mind his own experience three years before, so, condition-

ally, he accepted the office for one year which lengthened to 26 years, ending in 1939.

Our dear old friend Tom Hooper was elected Worshipful Master for 1911. We look back across the years and recall in happy memory many jolly times spent in the company of Tom and other kindred spirits. We think of memorable inter-lodge visits to Neepawa, to Carman, to Emerson, to Portage la Prairie and elsewhere. Others, still members of St. John's Lodge, participated in these outings and will enjoy this backward glance and think lovingly of Tom Hooper in his hula skirt and blackened face. During the year under review an effort was made to interest the Masons in Winnipeg to undertake the erection of a new Temple. Here again, as has happened every time the proposal to build a new Temple is mooted, we find two divergent schools of thought. One group spoke about remodelling the existing Temple or razing it to the ground and erecting on the site a building with commercial offices on the lower floors and lodge accommodation above. The other scheme was to build a purely Masonic Temple on a central property adjacent to, but not inside, the business area. The members of St. John's Lodge put themselves on record at the time as favoring the Donald Street site but, if any change was decided upon, that the location be not west of Vaughan Street and between Portage Avenue and Notre Dame Avenue. Like all the other proposed plans this one never materialized. Many of our older members will recall the constant attendance of Tom Hooper when the Master Mason Degree was conferred. For over twenty years he had enacted the same part in the Drama. When his voice was stilled in 1934 we lost a friend and devoted worker in St. John's.

The annual dues which for many years had remained at \$4.00 were increased to \$6.00 in 1911. A drastic change was also made in connection with the regulations and conditions for obtaining of Life Membership. These necessary adjustments in our financial set-up were not accomplished without a thorough discussion as to the "why and wherefore" of the suggested increases.



The year 1912 was marked by a continued improvement and a wider activity. There was a systematic series of inter-lodge visits arranged, the delivery of interesting addresses while lodge was at labor, and a happy reunion of the members. We can readily understand the success which followed all these endeavours, when we recognize the Worshipful Master in the person of A. G. Cowan. George has always been "George" regardless of the "Andrew" which precedes his middle name, and his brethren in St. John's would have it no other way.

Throughout the years, whenever any activity of the lodge required organization — devotion — personal touch — the man chosen to do the job invariably was George Cowan. And today, thirty-nine years after he relinquished the Master's chair he is selected to carry on in the same old way. We make this comment because he is the dynamo which drives the writer of this brochure to get the job completed.

In 1913, W. R. McConnell was elected Worshipful Master and when his term of office drew near its conclusion circumstances arose which made it necessary to re-elect him for the year 1914. He successfully carried the responsibility for two years and his energy and ability brought abundant results. The project to build a new Temple was re-opened but on account of the depressed condition of business it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance. Because of our expanding financial position, and in order that the lodge could hold property and do other things, we obtained a certificate of incorporation under the Private Bill passed by the Manitoba Legislature incorporating the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The names appearing on our petition for incorporation were W. R. McConnell, John G. Hossack, P. E. Kellett, E. Scott Shields, A. G. Cowan, J. S. Nicholas, T. H. Hooper, Wm. Douglas, L. D. Beard, C. E. Sugden, and James Mackie.

We lost the services of John G. Hossack, a valuable Past Master, because of his transfer to the Head Office of his Company located in Toronto. The brethren, in token of his contribution to the success of the Lodge and his work as our

representative on the Masonic Temple Board for eight years, presented Jack with a gold watch. His successor on the Board as representative of the Lodge was W. R. McConnell, and during Bill's service as a Director he made an almost complete re-vamping of the accounting system and re-arranged its financial affairs. Bill McConnell was an invaluable member of the Temple Board for several years.

In the month of March, 1914, the lodge was once again confronted by family responsibilities. The town of Transcona was developing rapidly and the Masons who had settled in the rising railway centre from other points on the railway line decided they needed a Masonic Lodge. A petition seeking a Dispensation was signed and St. John's Lodge asked to become the sponsor. The request was cheerfully complied with and our officers and members were happy to assist their third "daughter" to a good start. For many years the members of St. John's Lodge made frequent visits to the three lodges which had received our blessing and official recommendation at the time their Dispensations were issued, but in recent times this grand custom, this family ingathering, seems to have been neglected. May we hope for an early resumption of one of the finest methods of engendering Masonic fellowship between neighbours.

A somewhat belated honor came to our first Worshipful Master in 1913 when the Grand Lodge of Manitoba conferred the rank of Honorary Past Grand Master on John W. Harris. This was no routine compliment but a long delayed recognition of a deserved honor. At the third Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba (1878) Brother Harris was elected Deputy Grand Master. Later that year the distressing schism in Manitoba Freemasonry occurred and was still unsettled when the fourth Annual Communication was held in 1879. Most Worshipful Brother S. P. Matheson (later Archbishop Matheson) was elected Grand Master and Brother John W. Harris re-elected Deputy Grand Master. When the breach was healed, largely through the influence of M. W. Bro. S. P. Matheson, our founder graciously stepped out of the line and

permitted John Headley Bell to be elected Grand Master. Thus, thirty-four years after the events had taken place a worthy recognition was paid to a brother who throughout the entire period had contributed much to the building of the Craft in this jurisdiction. As a mark of our esteem the members of St. John's Lodge presented John W. Harris with a Past Grand Master's Apron.

The year 1914 will be well marked on the page of every future historian. It was the year when the ruthless hordes in Europe wrecked the peace of the world and engulfed humanity in what is now referred to as World War I. This calamity touched the home of every member of St. John's Lodge — every family in Canada.

Bill McConnell surrendered the Master's gavel at the close of 1914 to Charles E. Sugden and as Bill took his place as a Past Master of the Lodge the unanimous voice of his brethren echoed the words "well done." At the time our lists were prepared for the year — December, 1914 — the roster of the Lodge carried the names of 441 members in good standing.

One of the first activities of 1915 was the preparation of plans to celebrate our 40th Anniversary. This event took the form of a dinner held in the Fort Garry Hotel on the evening of 12th May, 1915. Two hundred and thirty-four brethren sat at the banquet table. Of this number two hundred and ten were members of the Lodge. We were honored with the presence of M.W. Bro. L. S. Vaughan, Grand Master; Wm. Fenwick, Deputy Grand Master; H. E. Bletcher, Senior Grand Warden; P. E. Kellett, Junior Grand Warden; James A. Ovas, Grand Secretary; A. L. Crossin, Senior Grand Deacon; A. G. Cowan, Grand Director of Ceremonies; J. A. Munro, Grand Pursuivant; and E. M. Walker, Past Grand Master. Every Lodge in the District was officially represented. The presiding chairman was our Worshipful Master, C. E. Sugden. The toast list consisted of toasts to, "The M.W. Grand Master and Grand Lodge," given by W. R. McConnell and responded to by L. S. Vaughan, Grand Master; and Wm. Fenwick, Deputy Grand Master; To "The Old Timers of St. John's Lodge," given by

Wm. Douglas and responded to by our founder and first Worshipful Master, John W. Harris, and W. J. Ptolemy. To "Our Brethren on Active Service" eloquently given by E. W. Quinn, and to "The Sister City Lodges," given by P. E. Kellett and responded to by H. E. Bletcher, Prince Rupert's Lodge No. 1, and Geo. Syme, Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3.

It should be noted that representatives were present at the Anniversary Dinner from the three lodges in existence in 1875 when St. John's Lodge received the first Dispensation issued by The Grand Lodge of Manitoba. Recently I came across a reference to the banquet we have just mentioned and it disclosed the interesting information that the total amount paid by the Lodge to The Fort Garry Hotel for a sumptuous full course dinner was \$581.50. The cost of living has altered the price of banquets considerably since we held the 40th Anniversary Dinner.

The course of the Lodge was under the guidance of James Mackie in 1916 and although war still raged in Europe the brethren back home carried on in a brotherly manner. There was a constant movement of troops and at every meeting the uniform of the armed services was conspicuous. The brethren attached to the 45th Battalion, who trained in Winnipeg, made St. John's Lodge their Masonic home during their stay in the city, and shortly before they left for overseas, Major Whillier expressed appreciation on behalf of the officers and men who had visited with us regularly. As a tangible expression of their esteem they presented to the Lodge "The Great Light" which has rested on our Altar from that day to the present time.

Coincident with the reign of Jim Mackie as Worshipful Master, our own Bill Douglas was elected District Deputy Grand Master for the First Masonic District. At the June meeting of the Lodge, Brother Douglas presented the Silver Square and Compasses which are used with the "Great Light" already referred to each time the Lodge is called to Labor.

In the line of Junior Officers, Brother Mackie was supported by some sterling material. His wardens were W. C. Birt and Wm. Carr; his Senior Deacon, Jas. Lorimer, and his

Junior Steward, Frank B. Thompson. A continuance of policy in the immediate future was inevitable because these brethren among themselves mutually planned a broad, progressive programme extending beyond their single year in the Master's Chair, and the Lodge received large returns from this plan of work.

There were other factors that greatly contributed to this season of development. Our Past Master, Percy E. Kellett, was elected Grand Master in 1917. He was the first member of St. John's Lodge to be honored by election to this exalted office. A brief reference to his outstanding work was made in commenting on his election as Worshipful Master. The writer has a special place in his heart for Percy Kellett. He gave me my first appointment as a junior officer in 1906. During the year that I occupied the Master's Chair, also whilst serving as District Deputy Grand Master, encouraging words and inspiring advice came generously from my talented friend and brother. What I experienced was duplicated many times over with others not only in Brother Kellett's Mother Lodge but elsewhere. He was indeed a source of strength to St. John's Lodge and Billie Birt will testify for himself how much he leaned on Percy Kellett throughout 1917. During the year 1917 we initiated 25 candidates and received by affiliation 52 members. This is the largest number ever to be received by affiliation in any single year since St. John's Lodge was instituted.

When 1918 dawned the grim cloud of war still enveloped the world and some of our fellow members had made the supreme sacrifice. Of this we shall make reference at a later stage. Our Worshipful Master, Brother William Carr, was kept busy during his year of office. This is really an understatement. He welcomed the Grand Master on the occasion of an official visit to his Mother Lodge in February. This was the year when the initial campaign to raise funds for the creation of the Benevolent Fund of Grand Lodge was inaugurated. We recall the interest which this great effort aroused throughout the Jurisdiction. One of our own members was Grand Master.



PERCY E. KELLETT  
GRAND MASTER, 1917





He had sounded a clarion call and the fellow members of his own lodge responded in a grand way. St. John's Lodge had been set a target of \$4,020.00 as its share of the total objective. When the contribution cards were collected and the money counted we topped the entire jurisdiction by sending a remittance for \$10,026.00. This money was entirely made up by individual donations and was subscribed from a membership numbering 541. Our own Brother W. R. McConnell was general Chairman of the province-wide campaign which was an unqualified success, exceeding the expectations of every brother connected with the effort.

We have remarked previously that periodical visits were made by our members to outside points and our cable tow kept extending year by year. In 1918 we took 34 members by train to Brandon and the brethren of Brandon Lodge No. 19 arranged a special meeting for the occasion in the auditorium of the Normal School. Over 200 brethren from the surrounding district were in attendance and we presented as a memento of the visit a beautiful set of Altar Jewels.

No meeting of St. John's Lodge, nor any other Winnipeg Lodge, was held from 2nd October until after 30th November, 1918. The Department of Public Health had prohibited all public meetings in Churches, Theatres, Schools, Assembly Halls and Lodge rooms because of the "Flu" epidemic then raging.

When labor was resumed at the date of the regular meeting in December it was under happier circumstances than was anticipated when the ban was issued. Peace had been declared. Armistice had been signed on 11th November. Our reaction to this glorious announcement is contained in a resolution passed 4th December, 1918, which reads:

"That after a period extending over 51 months we again meet under peaceful conditions and we are grateful to the G. A. of the U. that we are permitted once more to enjoy the peace which has resulted from the success of the Allied Arms.

"Many of our members have served King and Country, the majority of whom have been spared to return to enjoy

the peace which they had won, but we must remember that a number of our loved brothers would sleep their last sleep in Flanders Fields and that they had bought our peace at the cost of their lives.

"It is resolved, that we should mark their memory by arranging for some fixed and permanent memorial as a mark of our esteem and that St. John's Lodge obtain a tablet to be erected in the Masonic Temple.

"That a committee be named by the W. M. Elect, and that permission be asked from the Directors of the Masonic Temple Association."

The newly elected Master, Jas. Lorimer, made the necessary appointment of the committee, but as can be well understood it took time to cast the tablet and complete the arrangements for an appropriate ceremony. All these things were accomplished and on 14th December, 1919, a Memorial Service under the chairmanship of our first Worshipful Master, John W. Harris, was held in the Masonic Temple. The lodge room in the Masonic Temple was crowded to capacity by members, their wives and the relatives of the brethren who had made the supreme sacrifice and whose names were graven on the bronze marker.

In tribute to their memory, their loyalty and their sacrifice and as a renewed acknowledgement of the debt we owe to the defenders of all we hold dear, we humbly inscribe their names in this commemorative booklet:

Charles Aldridge	William Jones
John Caldwell	John C. Leitch
Wesley Clemis	Harold Morris
William Grant	Oscar R. Rudolf
James Rutledge	
Martin Sutherland	
James Smith	
Percy W. Shields	

"For your tomorrow, they gave their today."

The devotional part of this service was conducted by Brother Canon J. W. Matheson; the unveiling was performed by our Grand Master, Alexander McIntyre, who also delivered the memorial address. We quote one short passage from his scholarly oration: "These were good men and true. They were loyal to their Lodge; good citizens and fine comrades. But they were much more. They were made of the noble stuff out of which heroes are made. Like the Knights of Old, these brethren went forth, at their own bidding, as crusaders in a righteous cause, as the champions of the people against the rule of a class, of freedom against tyranny, of mercy opposed to ruthlessness, of justice against iniquity, and of humane and Christian civilization against all that is pagan and barbarian . . . May God grant that we together may arise from war's great tribulation stronger, cleaner, nobler, freer, and for ever more worthy to carry on the work laid to our hand in this our day and generation." Our Memorial Service was simple, dignified, and befitting in every way the solemn occasion.

It was a pleasure to welcome back to the Lodge in person, Brothers Fred H. Wilson and Sam Barley who had both been prisoners-of-war in Germany for over two years. Another item of interest to the brethren was a resolution congratulating R.W. Brother C. N. Mitchell, one of our Past Masters, on the distinguished service rendered by his son, Norman, who had been decorated with the Victoria Cross for valor in the field. We had the honor of initiating Norman on 6th December, 1919.

On 14th November we welcomed Fred Whitman, Worshipful Master of King Hiram Lodge No. 104, Regina, Saskatchewan, accompanied by a large number of his lodge members. We had the pleasure of greeting at the same meeting Most Worshipful Brother N. B. Williams, Grand Master, and Most Worshipful Brother W. B. Tate, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. As a memento of the visit, our guests presented to St. John's Lodge, a beautifully designed trowel for use in our ceremonies.

We made history in 1920 when the members elected Dr. Arthur Taylor as Worshipful Master. This was the first occasion

in the life of the lodge that a son of a former Master received this high honor. His father, Thomas W. Taylor, was Master in 1893. Dr. Taylor served overseas in World War One as Medical Officer in the 5th Artillery Brigade. He was a deep student, a keen ritualist, an ardent reader, and a thoughtful researcher. During his year as our Master the Lodge received the largest accession to its membership. Looking back it seems incredible, nevertheless the official records tell us, that in the course of twelve months we initiated 73 petitioners, which number, along with 24 affiliates, brought an addition of 97 members in a single year.

We were busy workmen at this time and the record of 1920 was almost duplicated in the year 1921. During this year we initiated 62 and received by affiliation 21, a total of 83. This was our second highest accession list for 12 months and the figures tell their own story.

Accommodation for the Committee work of the Lodge and facilities to meet the requirements of the corps of instructors was unavailable in the Masonic Temple, and as a result the many activities of St. John's Lodge were under constant handicap. To relieve this situation we purchased the property at 261 Colony St. and remodelled the house to accommodate our needs. This arrangement brought together under a central gathering place many of our members and an enlarged program developed in the succeeding years.

Under the leadership of Frank Thompson we met the post-war situation in a creditable manner. We augmented the great delegation of Manitoba Masons who participated in the International Celebration held at Pembina, North Dakota, on 21st June, 1921. The Manitoba brethren were headed by our Grand Master, Geo. N. Jackson. This occasion was marked by the unveiling of a marker and tablet erected on the site where the building in which the first Masonic Lodge in Red River Settlement days met in 1863.

The Manitoba party travelled by special train from Winnipeg, the North Dakota party by special train from Grand

Forks where the Grand Lodge of North Dakota was in Annual Communication. Under the direction of our own brother, Jock Coghill, the Police Pipe Band led a monster parade of Manitoba Masons to the park where the Memorial Service was held. This was a red-letter day in the towns of Emerson and Pembina and cemented still closer the fine companionship which has existed between the lodges of the two border towns and St. John's for three-quarters of a century.

The careful conservation of our assets during the period in which we had received an increased number of petitions for membership was beginning to show results and we find that in 1922 we had an accumulated surplus approximating \$25,000.00. Our Worshipful Master was Joe McLaughlin and despite the fact that we initiated 40 new members there was sufficient time to have talented brethren visit the lodge and deliver interesting addresses. We had four special speakers during the year. The cost of operating our Lodge, like everything else, was on an upward spiral, so to bridge the resulting gap between income and expenditure the annual dues were increased from \$8.00 to \$10.00, and they have so remained until the present day.

We elected Roscoe Baker as Master in 1923 but he was transferred by his employer to Ontario early in the year, and from the month of April until a successor was installed in December, Jim Mackie sounded the gavel and took over the duties as acting Master. At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge Jim was elected District Deputy Grand Master for the District and had to carry a dual responsibility for the last six months of 1923. As a reward for his diligence as acting Worshipful Master the Lodge presented to Brother Mackie a Past District Deputy Grand Master's Apron.

The year 1924 brought to our notice the passing of the years and discussions took place regarding the celebration of our Jubilee. This matter was carefully considered by Tom Connell who was our able and devoted Master. He caused a special Committee to be set up to consider and make recommendation, and in April the lodge adopted the committee report which read: "this Celebration Committee recommend to St.

John's Lodge, that in their opinion the most suitable manner in which to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, is to construct a permanent lodge building on the site owned by the Lodge at 261 Colony Street, and further, that your committee as presently constituted be continued for the purpose of obtaining suitable plans and specifications, method of suggested financing such a scheme, and full details in connection therewith, and that when the information has been prepared, to submit their further findings and recommendations to the Lodge for instruction."

At a later meeting a further report from the Committee was considered and plans for a lodge building were submitted. The estimated cost of the proposed building was \$50,000.00 and the recommendation that we proceed with the project was adopted. Without extending this page in the history of the lodge we would briefly sum up the story by saying we abandoned the scheme and did not carry the plan into execution. After using the Lodge House for several years it was rented to a tenant, and later, in 1949, the property was sold.

We now reach our year of Jubilee. For fifty years St. John's Lodge had continued to work on the structure of Freemasonry. When the first return of membership was reported to Grand Lodge at the end of December, 1875, we had 33 names on the roster. The return made up to 30th June, 1950, tells us we had 639 active members on our books. These figures disclose only one part of the story. Over the years we can say in truth that by and through the men who were members of St. John's Lodge we made a creditable contribution to the life of our City and Province. Many of our number have occupied responsible places in the government and on municipal councils; we had a representative cross section of our community fraternizing in the Mother Lodge and at the same time extending their influence in public service. We do well to recognize and honor these brethren of other days.

Our year of Jubilee was notable for several reasons, and with William Aldridge as Master, it was a season of real progress. To mark this important anniversary, arrangements

were made to bring together all the members of the Lodge around the festive board. The Commemoration Dinner was held at The Fort Garry Hotel on the evening of 16th October, 1925, under the chairmanship of the Worshipful Master. The premier toast of the evening was "The Pioneers of St. John's Lodge," and we were privileged to have two charter members make reply, John W. Harris, our first Worshipful Master, and Samuel L. Kyle, who travelled from Orlando, Florida, for the occasion. At that time we had a third Charter Member, W. V. Robson, still among us but he was prevented from being present on account of his health.

We had marked our Anniversary in a more serious manner on Tuesday, 7th July, 1925, in the Lodge room, when the brethren assembled to hold a Jubilee Service. This ceremony was in the form of a special ritual which was prepared by Worshipful Brother Aldridge and Brother Dean J. W. Matheson. This ritual and order of service has been adapted on many subsequent occasions by other lodges at the time they were holding an Anniversary Meeting. It should be noted that this Jubilee Service was held on the actual anniversary, 7th July, that being the date we held our first Regular meeting in 1875.

During the year under review other matters of importance were considered. An appropriate address of congratulation, prepared by Brothers B. C. Parker and E. J. Thomas, was presented to John W. Harris, our first Worshipful Master. Brother Kyle brought from Florida a set of orangewood gavels and these were presented to the lodge. Then E. J. Boardman, District Deputy Grand Master of the District, presented to the lodge, and at the same time invested the several officers, with beautiful Collars and Jewels. This gift was made by the lodges in the First Masonic District as a mark of their esteem toward St. John's Lodge and in commemoration of our fiftieth birthday.

In 1925 we reached the high peak of membership so far as numbers are concerned. Our report to Grand Lodge that year listed 830 names and it was then claimed we had the largest Masonic Lodge west of Toronto. We did not maintain this

peak very long because a slight decrease was noted the following year and this reduction in membership continued following year, and this reduction in membership continued low of 570.

This seemingly extraordinary circumstance can be briefly explained, at least partially, by recalling the calamitous depression of the thirties. This national economic tragedy affected not our Lodge alone but every Masonic group throughout the North American continent. Then we should bring to mind the fact that between 1914, when war broke out in Europe, and the year we are now considering, the membership of St. John's Lodge had increased from 441 to 830, i.e., nearly four hundred in the brief space of eleven years.

It is difficult to assess the real value of members who associate themselves with Freemasonry in wartime. Our experience was duplicated over and over again in places near and far, and subsequent experiences would indicate that our loss of members could be traced to the disinterested type of petitioner who came among us during and after the war.

We are mindful of some who were initiated about the time we are now reviewing and pay tribute to a few who showed a remarkable devotion and enthusiasm. Regardless of these honest workers we cannot ignore the fact that many joined the Craft without the proper perspective. They were misfits, and the inevitable result was that suspension for non-payment of dues or the issuance of a dimit closed their membership.

With a falling off in our membership we found a re-awakening of interest developing in another direction. Many of our older brethren had become lax in their attendance at Lodge meetings. The great Jubilee festival of 1925 had brought the oldsters to these commemoration meetings and many returned with regularity to sit and fraternize in Lodge with their fellow members.

Percy White carried the banner with dignity and precision and maintained the standard of quality at the regular monthly



meetings throughout the year. There was a continuance of the plan which brought eminent brethren to address the members while the lodge was at labor. For some years previous, and through later years, the members of St. John's Lodge were privileged to hear many addresses not only on Masonic subjects but dealing with items of community interest. Less than six months from the time we celebrated our 50th Anniversary it was our sad experience to remove the names of two of the Charter members from the active list. Our founder, John W. Harris, passed away on 20th March, 1926, and was buried in St. John's Cemetery on 24th, and a short time later we received information that Brother W. V. Robson had signed our register for the last time.

Our record of occurrences for the next few years is somewhat scanty. For some unaccountable reason very little data is available at the moment but that by no means indicates a slowing up of the work in which St. John's Lodge was engaged. True, we held the usual social gatherings, we met regularly and initiated, passed and raised our complement of new members. Our Master for 1927 was Reg Pinfold and he was an energetic officer. The writer cannot recall when he saw Reg moving under slow motion and he is still the same human dynamo we knew twenty years ago as the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. It may have been his urge for efficiency, but whatever the cause, our record shows that during the year he presided in the East we suspended 48 for non-payment of dues. That of course was a legacy from previous years.

It had been the custom since the institution of St. John's to deal leniently with members who became delinquent with regard to payment of their annual dues. As a result of this mis-applied sympathy, we found it necessary to make a periodic check-up. When the survey was examined it was followed by removing from our active list the names of the chronic offenders. This experience usually left the impression that the officers in that particular year had fallen down. Such a conclusion is

erroneous because the fault lay in the system which had grown upon the Lodge and was not the responsibility of any single officer.

Reg. Pinfold was succeeded by Eddie Thomas who was elected to govern the Lodge for 1928. We can recall in retrospect many amusing experiences in which Eddie was the central figure. Throughout the year he brought a dignity and a charm to all the work of his Lodge and he was ever faithful to his trust. He found evidence that the interest in the Lodge House on Colony Street was on the wane. It seemed to have served its purpose but its use was not in demand to the same extent as previously. Conditions in the City and Province were becoming less favorable and clouds appeared on the horizon. Despite it all we faced the future with courage.

It was with sorrow and sadness that we received information that our last surviving Charter Member, Samuel L. Kyle, passed away on 29th May, 1928.

We welcomed as the new Master for 1929 Ben C. Parker. Throughout the year Ben arranged speakers who came to Lodge and delivered scholarly addresses. This feature of Masonic activity within the walls of St. John's was one of the pillars upon which our early success was built, and perhaps it would be worth while to check up and ascertain if a return to a similar plan of education is not what we need in St. John's today.

The question of a new Masonic Temple came into the lime-light again but only for a brief and passing glance, as nothing in the way of a new building materialized. Some extra property was purchased by the Association but the project ended there. Our brother J. L. Rill presented a cup for annual golf competition and the brother to win the prize for the first time was Ken Kennedy. This golf outing was carried on for several years and was an excellent means whereby the brethren had opportunity to fraternize for an afternoon during the summer recess.

In Grand Lodge circles our lodge was honored by the election of William Douglas to the office of Grand Master. This was the second time in the history of Manitoba Masonry that one of our members had been elected to the highest office in the Jurisdiction.

The lodge arranged a special home-coming meeting to honor the Grand Master on 6th November, 1929, and it was no easy task for Bill to stand before the familiar family group in any other manner than just one of the family. Of course there was never any occasion on which the prerogative of the Grand Master was required to censure his own lodge, and as far as he was personally concerned, regardless of the high office he held, "the rank is but the guinea stamp," and we can never be other than what we really are.

In the course of his address to the members the Grand Master had this to say: "What I have received in Masonic rank has come by and through my fellow members of St. John's Lodge. The encouragement to achieve, the incentive to do something, has been inspired by that fellowship which marks our endeavour in this Lodge, and if I have attained, then you have attained, because, Masonically speaking, I belong to this Lodge — St. John's."

Today, twenty-one years after the words were spoken, and forty-six years after my affiliation with St. John's Lodge, I re-iterate once again the sentiments expressed when I was your Grand Master.

We do things in a well-ordered fashion in St. John's and in the natural course of things it is usual to elect the Senior Warden to the Master's Chair when election time comes round each year. Before we pass on to Ben Parker's successor we would add this comment. The eldest son of Ben Parker now (1950) occupies the Senior Warden's chair in the Lodge and it is not unlikely he will be elected and installed Worshipful Master before the close of the year. This will be the second time a father and a son has been elected to the highest gift in the power of their brethren, and it is an honor we believe that will be doubly acknowledged.



WILLIAM DOUGLAS  
GRAND MASTER, 1929

If we searched the records of our Lodge for a brother whose distinguishing characteristics were regularity and punctuality then the person most likely to be honored for these qualities would be our genial Irish friend, Bill Watson. He was elected Worshipful Master for the year 1930. It was his proud boast that from the day he received the Sublime Degree of Master Mason until long after he had laid down the gavel of authority, he had not missed one single meeting of St. John's Lodge. To illustrate his concern with regard to his enviable record it is written in our minute book that in October, 1931, he had been unavoidably delayed while on a visit to Toronto. A wire reached the lodge on the day of meeting, and a resolution unanimously passed that in view of his constant attendance we record his presence through the medium of the telegram received. This act brought great joy to Bill and, regardless of this single instance, he continued his unequalled record of attendance until transferred by his employers to the City of Montreal.

The stress of the times and the unbalanced state of industry and business made itself felt in the realm of Freemasonry. During the year 1931, while Ollie Best was Worshipful Master, the economic factor was reflected in the number of petitioners initiated in St. John's Lodge. We received ten new members by initiation during the twelve-month period. The then existing world-wide depression left its mark and had a detrimental effect on every phase of community life and effort. The conserving of our assets and the careful investment of our funds during two decades of material prosperity enabled our Lodge to weather the disaster while sister lodges and other fraternal organizations were fearful that the worst calamity — closing up — might become necessary.

Perhaps it is well that we read the lesson of these days of adversity and learn from experience that we must plan for the future as well as enjoy a good time at the present. It was not an easy journey in the dark "thirties," but we know the brethren in office made the grade and brought us safely through

the storm. We honor them for the fine job they did.

The year 1932 dawned with conditions in our jurisdiction still dark and foreboding. That did not deter us from carrying on the work of St. John's with the faith of other days and Lance Jukes had a stalwart group of junior officers to help carry the load. In this connection it is interesting to note that every officer from Senior Warden to Junior Steward subsequently occupied the Master's Chair of a Craft Lodge. One, the Junior Deacon, John Denholm, by reason of his transfer to Calgary, did not preside over St. John's Lodge but he did receive preferment in the Lodge he affiliated with in the City of Calgary. Our list of initiations in 1932 numbered seven, the lowest annual total for several years. The meetings were by no means dull and uninteresting as the absence of degree work permitted the Worshipful Master to arrange a series of addresses throughout the year, and the speakers he brought were of the best calibre in the City. On the whole it was a profitable year.

The year 1933 held little prospect for a rush of degree work and Wilson McLean had a new low record marked as his year's work. Our accessions by initiation totalled three. But there was great activity in other directions. It was necessary to remit the arrears accrued against 35 of our number. This was necessitated by reason of unemployment and the depression. We began to take stock and make plans. A special committee was appointed to prepare a budget in order that our expenditures might be governed by the anticipated revenue. We decided to close St. John's Lodge House as a centre for our activities and a general review of our affairs resulted in many changes from what had prevailed over the years.

In 1933 we inaugurated "Manitoba Night," as the focal point for our regular meeting in the month of March, and this event has become an institution in St. John's. On this night we are hosts to the Masonic brethren who are members of the Manitoba Legislature and each year it has been our pleasure to welcome our parliamentary brethren on this special night. We hope the custom will be continued in St. John's for many,

many years because it has indeed brought together many brethren from widely scattered centres who otherwise would never have fraternized under such congenial surroundings.

The Masonic Temple was closed for several months to enable the contractors to carry out an extensive alteration program. As a result we held no meetings from June until the month of October.

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge held in June our own Past Master, Jim Mackie, was elected Grand Master. On the re-opening of the Masonic Temple in October it was our pleasure to welcome the Most Worshipful Grand Master to his Mother Lodge in his official capacity. To keep our record in proper balance we would add that this was the third time since the institution of the Lodge that one of our members had been so honored.

The echoes of our felicitations to Jim Mackie were fresh in our ears when later in the same month we received the sorrowful information that Most Worshipful Brother Percy E. Kellett, Past Grand Master, had passed away. The name of our revered Past Master is written large on the pages of Masonic history in this jurisdiction. His hand touched many places and the imprint still remains. He was a tower of strength in St. John's Lodge at a time when the Lodge seemed ready to emerge from the seculsion of just another Lodge. His was the energy that directed our forward march, and some of us can recall that his example and his forthright manner was an inspiration to the young and faltering officer who took part in a ceremony for the first time. In the words of a Past Grand Master who wrote an appreciation of Percy Kellett, we repeat, "he was a leader whom men followed loyally, for he had character, courage, and brains. He was a man."

Although structural alterations had been made in the "several apartments of the Temple," the comfort and convenience of brethren coming to the lodge room had received no particular attention. In other words the walls had been repaired and redecorated but the furnishings, especially the



JAMES MACKIE  
GRAND MASTER, 1953



seating, needed replacement. A matter of this importance could not remain unnoticed with Tom Dodsworth in the East. Early in the year we notified the Temple Association of our complaint, asking that new seats be provided and more adequate arrangements be made to accommodate the committee meetings.

Our list of initiates during 1934 numbered six. It was with sad hearts that we said farewell to Tom Hooper, one of the most active of our Past Masters. He was stricken suddenly and on 27th January we laid his body to rest in St. James cemetery.

The outstanding event during the year was held on 7th November, when in accordance with instructions received from Grand Lodge we held a Commemoration Meeting to mark the seventieth anniversary of the formation of the first Masonic lodge in Manitoba. An appropriate ritual had been prepared for the occasion and it was our good fortune to welcome as one of our speakers the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, Mark I Forkner. A special address dealing with the significance of the commemoration was delivered by M.W. Bro. Wm. Douglas.

On the 19th December, 1934, we had the pleasure of witnessing the impressive installation ceremony conducted by M.W. Brother James A. Ovas. This was the last time our talented Grand Secretary did this work in St. John's Lodge and at this meeting he installed Ken Kennedy as Master for 1935.

Record should be made that up to and including the year 1910 the Masters-Elect and the newly elected and appointed officers of all the Lodges in the City were installed at a joint ceremony. Beginning with 1911 this arrangement was changed and thereafter each Lodge held its own meeting and planned the ceremony accordingly.

The officers of St. John's Lodge welcomed this change and the "Festival of St. John" became one of the highlights each year. When December, 1911, rolled around we arranged with our genial Grand Secretary, Jim Ovas, to take charge of

the Ceremony and from that year until December, 1934, he installed our officers. In recognition of his interest in St. John's and as a mark of our appreciation, we elected Brother Ovas an Honorary Member in 1913. The memorial notice issued by Grand Lodge at the time of his death said, in part: "His conception of Freemasonry had no narrow bounds. His influence and fellowship extended through every jurisdiction of the Masonic world. He passed the allotted span of life more than a decade ago, and to the end he retained the buoyant spirit which characterized his whole life." To know Jim Ovas intimately was to love him.

We initiated three members during the year. Our activity cannot be measured by the extent of the degree work which the officers were called upon to confer. There is evidence of that wider Masonic horizon by reason of visits made to the lodges located at Roland, Manitoba, and Langdon, North Dakota. We also took part in the fiftieth anniversary of Tongue River Lodge No. 22 at Cavalier, North Dakota, on 4th June, 1935. These friendly visits did much to develop the younger members who generally accompanied the officers when visits were made.

An important meeting was held on 6th November when we commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of our Lodge. We were privileged on this occasion to welcome M.W. Brother Royal Burritt, Grand Master; Harry Woods, Deputy Grand Master; John T. Boyd, Senior Grand Warden; also the District Deputy Grand Masters of the First and Twelfth Masonic Districts. Accompanying the D.D.G.M. for the First District were the Worshipful Masters of all the Lodges in that district. The meeting was held in the Lodge room and the dinner and social hour followed at the close of the Lodge. We paid tribute to the pioneers who laid the foundations of St. John's Lodge and the old-timers who were in attendance were delighted to take part in this memorable gathering.

The passing of M.W. Brother Ovas made it necessary that we arrange for another distinguished brother to undertake the

duties involved in the Installation Ceremony. As the month of December drew near we learned with genuine pleasure that the Deputy Grand Master, Harry Woods, had consented to take over the work. It was indeed a happy arrangement and no brother was more delighted than the Worshipful Master elect, Jack Shields. The engagement then begun continued unbroken until December, 1947, when Harry conducted the ceremony in St. John's Lodge for the last time. There are scores of our members who will happily recall the installation ceremony conducted by Harry Woods. No more do we hear the resonant, sincere voice, charging each officer as he stood before the Altar, with the duties and responsibilities he had just undertaken. We elected Harry Woods an Honorary Member in February, 1939, and he was faithful in his attendance at Lodge until his health broke late in 1947. He died 17th April, 1948, and was buried with Masonic honors under the auspices of The Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

During 1936, Grand Lodge instituted a new 'jewel to be known as the "fifty year medal." To qualify for this medal a brother must have had continuous membership for fifty years, twenty-five years of which must be in our jurisdiction. Our Worshipful Master lost no time in requesting the medals for four of our old members and at the November meeting these were ready for presentation. The Grand Master (Harry Woods) made the presentation and personally pinned on T. M. Harrington's medal; John T. Boyd, Deputy Grand Master, pinned the medal on J. Thompson Black; and M.W. Bro. Jas. Mackie decorated S. G. G. Thompson. On account of ill-health the fourth recipient, Jas. Levy, was unable to be present but his medal was formally delivered at his home during the week. A few brethren journeyed to Bathgate, North Dakota, on 5th June and took part in the Fiftieth Anniversary of Bathgate Lodge No. 23, Grand Lodge of North Dakota. We had the enviable reputation at one time for our inter-Lodge activities and some of our members have many happy memories of the fine friendships which resulted from these trips to outside towns. It was a grand experience.

• We close our comment regarding the year 1936 with this

brief announcement, two new members were initiated during Jack Shields' year of office.

We look back upon the work of the Lodge in 1937 not from the extent of the degree work conferred because petitions were still few and far between. As a matter of fact, Syd Forman, our Worshipful Master, initiated four during his term of office. Those of us who remember Syd can understand that if he had no degrees to confer there would be other activities to keep the brethren at work.

One of the delightful experiences in 1937 was a visit we paid to the brethren of Pembina Lodge No. 2 at Pembina, North Dakota. Authority had been given by the Grand Lodge of North Dakota permitting the officers and members of St. John's Lodge No. 4, Winnipeg, to confer the Master Mason Degree on two candidates. If ever the Master of a Lodge had enthusiasm for an assignment placed in his care, then this particular occasion would rank as "No. 1 Northern." Incidentally, we presented the two candidates with Master Mason Aprons, similar to the aprons supplied our own members, and this distinguishing badge, as well as the unique circumstances which made the presentation possible, brought happiness to the newly raised candidates.

The director of transport for the trip was Jack Tackaberry. Approximately one hundred of our members joined the cavalcade. At the last minute "Tack" was called to Montreal on business, but his master touch left nothing to be desired even if he himself was absent. We reached our destination safely and arrived back home intact and exceedingly well pleased.

When Syd relinquished the gavel he was honored in having his Past Master's Jewel pinned on the lapel of his coat by the Grand Master, John T. Boyd, a life member of St. John's. All in all it was a successful year so far as member interest was concerned.

If we measure lodge business from the number of petitions received and the initiates we bring to light then we can honestly confess we are not very busy for a decade or longer. But

surely that yardstick never enters the mind of a Freemason. During 1938, with Jack Tackaberry as Master, our accessions by initiation numbered seven. However, Jack did make a creditable contribution to the real work of Masonry. Among the subjects dealt with by speakers he invited to our meetings were, "The Hudson's Bay, Churchill and Fort Prince of Wales;" "Ireland's Golden Era;" and on his return from Ireland and Europe, our genial Past Master, Bill Watson, drew aside the curtain and give us an interesting talk on his visit to Ireland.

It was our good fortune to welcome at one of the meetings two distinguished members of St. John's Lodge in the persons of John T. Boyd, Grand Master, and Ben Parker, District Deputy Grand Master. To carry on the story of members receiving high honors in Grand Lodge we would here record the fact that this was the fourth member of St. John's Lodge to be elected Grand Master. Our esteemed brother was welcomed at a "home-coming" meeting in the month of May. Jack Boyd made a notable contribution to the Masonic Craft in Manitoba and while he was active in his adopted lodge, "Meridian," more so than in St. John's, he never neglected his Mother Lodge and was proud of his membership.

In conjunction with Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3, we presented a silk Canadian Flag to Walhalla Lodge No. 50, Grand Lodge of North Dakota, as a mark of our brotherly love and affection. This gift was delivered by Ollie Best who had been delegated to make the presentation at an International Meeting held by Walhalla Lodge.

The closing message of Jack Tackaberry as he relinquished the Master's chair is peculiarly appropriate at this season of commemoration. He wrote: "Worshipful Masters come and go but our Lodge and its labors are continuing. We do not exist for the space of a year nor do we attempt to evaluate Freemasonry by what a group of officers in any particular year has accomplished. Our task is to spread the work of our members across the years, having no regard to the division of time in months, or even years." Surely a fine thought to keep before us in our seventy-fifth anniversary year.



JOHN T. BOYD  
GRAND MASTER, 1937

Conditions throughout the Jurisdiction were beginning to show signs of an improvement and employment in general was more stable than it had been for several years. Before the end of 1939 however, our hopes for a complete recovery were shattered when news announcing a state of war in Europe was flashed over the air. Our dreams of peace vanished overnight. The world was aflame.

The written record informs us that Frank Sutton initiated five new members during his year as Master. Among these candidates was his own son, also named Frank, and it was a source of paternal pride on the father's part that he had the privilege of bringing his own boy to Masonic light.

The annual celebration of Manitoba Night at our March meeting was made doubly interesting this year. Among our visiting brothers from the Manitoba Legislature was Bob Hawkins, Speaker of the House, and at the time the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

After serving the Lodge in the capacity of Secretary for 27 years Bill Douglas asked to be relieved of the office but Frank persuaded him to continue the work until the close of the year. On the evening when Bill handed the pen over to Jim Mackie, his successor, the W.M. presented Bill with a beautiful gold wrist watch in token of his work and as a mark of esteem from his fellow members. It was a rare privilege to serve twenty-six Worshipful Masters, and it is unfortunate a book of personal memories and observations had not been kept. What an interesting narrative could have been written into our present effort.

In handing the responsibility of the Master over to his successor, Frank Sutton touched a vital spot when he asked, "Are we taking our liberty and our freedom too much for granted? Whether your answer be in the affirmative or otherwise, let me suggest that you have a real introspective conversation with yourself. I need not dictate the questions. Each man of the full age of twenty-one years, free by birth and of sound mind, has all the capacity to satisfy himself if he has

followed and continues to follow the quest of Freemasonry." So as we reflect upon the implication of this message we pass on to the year 1940 when Bob Vance sat in the East. The impact of war conditions was felt especially in the matter of petitioners seeking Masonic light, and only three initiates crossed the threshold of St. John's during the year. Two of our daughter Lodges paid a visit to the parent Lodge, and on these occasions we enjoyed the fellowship of the brethren of Acacia Lodge No. 111, and Emerson No. 6. In the fall we returned the Emerson visit and had a wonderful time in the company of our brethren at the International Boundary town.

An effort was made to interest the members in the Constitution by printing in the Lodge notice a series of questions and giving a key to the answers alongside. This was an excellent idea but for some unaccountable reason it only lasted two or three months.

When a promising young member removes to another centre of business activity the wonder is expressed whether or not his interest in Freemasonry will continue or lag. The Master elected to preside over St. John's Lodge for the year 1941 made such a move shortly after he had been received into membership. Some of the brethren who had been privileged to meet Howard Brown intimately, had no fears as to his continued interest in Masonic affairs at The Pas. He entered wholeheartedly into the work of the local lodge there. When a Dispensation was asked for a Lodge at Flin Flon we found Howard one of the early pioneers in business at the Northland Mining centre. He was also one of the leading spirits directing the formation of Flin Flon Lodge. Time passed and he returned to Winnipeg and his Mother Lodge. It was a happy day for Howard when the gavel of St. John's was delivered into his hand.

His year in the East was not marked in a spectacular way. Such is not in his category. He did initiate four candidates, inspired the members to contribute over \$2,000.00 to the War Fund of Grand Lodge which, added to a donation of \$5,000.00 from the funds of the Lodge, represented our giving for this





very worthy object. In the course of the year he arranged to bring several speakers to our meetings and made no fewer than five inter-lodge visits. Undoubtedly he was a well-travelled Master. Perhaps some of his philosophy can be estimated from his own words, "The prophets will foretell the future and the historians record the past, but what is wanted today is brethren and fellows who will do the work at hand and do it well." This is an excellent word picture of the brother who wrote the message.

There is only one Cliff Brock, and I am prepared to take in a vast extent of territory when I challenge any member of the Lodge to find his equal. When Cliff was elected our Master for 1942 many of us looked for the unexpected to happen, and we were not disappointed. But the unexpected was singularly far from what some of us looked for. In all my forty-six years membership in the Lodge there has been no Worshipful Master who received more lodges as our guests in a single year than did my old friend Cliff. He even had the Worshipful Masters, officers and members of four different lodges visit St. John's on the same night. On another occasion he welcomed three visiting delegations from North Dakota towns, i.e., Pembina, Walhalla and Cavalier. On still another night he had representatives from the Lodges at Kenora and Keewatin, Ontario, and so it went through the entire twelve months. But his activity was not confined to the part of playing host. In the interval between the meetings of his own Lodge he found time and an abundance of fellow travellers to pay his fraternal regards and make a typical "Brock" speech at the meetings of lodges located at Pembina, North Dakota; Kenora and Keewatin, Ontario; Moosehorn, Selkirk, Stonewall, Morris, East Kildonan, West Kildonan, Norwood, St. Vital, St. James, Transcona and Weston. His name will be found on several registers belonging to the Lodges meeting in the Masonic Temple and elsewhere in the area. In addition to this perpetual motion, Cliff found time to initiate six members in his own Lodge. Yes, he did the unexpected but did it in an excellent way.

During the course of the year the District Deputy Grand Master asked the several lodges in the District for an expression of opinion with regard to making a change in the amount of the fee for initiation. Our Lodge went on record, without any reservation, that we considered the amount should continue at \$75.00. At the meeting this matter was discussed we read a somewhat strange entry in the Minute Book, reading, "Moved that a Committee be appointed by the Worshipful Master to conduct an enquiry with a view to ascertaining why there is a lack of applications for membership." Evidently the task of the committee was too great because no subsequent entry gives an answer to the query. It is questionable if any brother could satisfactorily discover the reason, if any.

The successor to Cliff as Worshipful Master was Doctor A. S. McCann, and as we are now reviewing a period which brings us closely in touch with the present active officers and members this part of the story should be familiar to the majority of the members.

For the first time in twelve years the number of initiations reached double figures, but only touched them. Eleven candidates were received into membership during 1943. Most of us realize that the road back is the hardest path to climb. We will add a brief comment at this point on our experiences over a difficult period in the life of St. John's. Happily the pendulum had begun to swing back again. The effects of the depression were felt by Masonic Lodges all over the North American continent for a long time, even after conditions had taken a turn for the better. Recovery was not spectacular. The average man did not have money for luxuries and special activities had to await their turn. Then war broke out in all its fury.

It will be recalled that on a previous page, mention was made of the fact that in two years following World War I — 1920 and 1921 — we initiated in St. John's Lodge, 135 new members. This was a formidable undertaking for 24 months but we did it. Let us look at the decade now closing, 1933 to 1942, and note the contrast. The largest number of

initiations in one of these years was seven, in 1938, while the lowest was two in 1936. The total for the ten-year period was 43, an average of 4.3 per year. With the dawn of 1943 we began to regain some lost ground and since that time we have made a slow recovery, but an improved position is noted with each passing year.

Do not misinterpret this reference. The old adage that numbers do not make a Lodge still stands and shall ever stand. We should, as we contemplate this bit of the story, pay tribute to the Masters who ruled the Lodge in what must be regarded as our most difficult and trying period. Not only do we say this for the rulers of the Craft but we are equally mindful of the devotion of a group of loyal members who gave their best, who attended Lodge, who carried on where service was needed, and who played the part of a brother Mason. The contribution made by these gallant brethren is the best explanation of our position and our stature in the Jurisdiction of Manitoba today.

We recall three different phases of Masonic work which characterized the year Doctor McCann directed our course. First, he arranged for a speaker practically every regular meeting night. Second, he received inter-lodge visits from six or seven city lodges, and third, he was a consistent visitor to our sister lodges in the District.

On the occasion of our Annual Manitoba Night, the members extended congratulations to our own member, Stuart Garson, who had recently been elected Premier of the Province of Manitoba, and who headed a large group of his fellow legislators.

St. John's Lodge was signally honored in Grand Lodge. During the early part of the year Ken Kennedy was District Deputy Grand Master of the First Masonic District and at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in June, Ben Parker was elected Grand Master. Keeping count, and for the record, let us add that Ben was the fifth member of St. John's Lodge to receive this high honor at the hands of the Freemasons of Manitoba.



BEN C. PARKER  
GRAND MASTER, 1943



An outstanding meeting of the Lodge brought together a panel of members who gave a running explanation of the "Declaration of Principles," which had been adopted by Grand Lodge in 1942. It is fitting we should include this important statement in this brief history of St. John's Lodge because it is still a requisite for the man seeking membership in a Lodge in our jurisdiction, and is likewise the declaration of all the brethren holding membership in a Lodge in Manitoba.

"The first condition of admission and membership in the Order, is a belief in the Supreme Being. This is essential, and admits of no compromise.

"Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

"It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

"It is benevolent in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonies a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

"It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

"It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may gather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship and of charity.

"Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility,

enlightens them as to those things which make for human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity, or goodwill toward all mankind, which will move them to translate principles and conviction into action.

"To that end, it teaches and stands for the worship of God, truth and justice, fraternity and philanthropy, enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

"It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle, upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite, rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble.

"Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics, or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

"It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare, for Masonic bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of government officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience."

We suggest to the individual brother that he should familiarize himself with the contents of this important document because it not only tells him what Freemasonry stands for but will assist him in explaining its principles to the uninformed.

When the ballots were counted on election day it was announced that "Ante" Antenbring had received the necessary number to elect him Worshipful Master for 1944. He brought to his office energy and vigor, and his every move had a purpose and a goal.

One of the problems which has confronted many Lodges in different parts of the country centres around the question of Life Membership and the basis upon which such can be obtained. Speaking in a general sense, few if any of the plans in operation are sound, financially, and in the long run drastic changes will become necessary. Without doubt many of the plans have been instituted on a purely sentimental basis, but sentiment, however laudable, can never be the medium of paying rent and carrying the month by month expense. This problem was faced squarely while "Ante" Antenbring was Master. His predecessor, Dr. McCann, had previously appointed a special committee with wide powers to carry out a study and survey covering the general welfare of St. John's Lodge. It was early realized by the members of this special committee that our general financial structure, as it concerned annual dues and life memberships, was the number one project, and as a result a comprehensive survey covering every member of the lodge was made. This job required many months but it was carried through and a decision arrived at in 1944.

To illustrate the situation existing in St. John's Lodge it was discovered that at the end of 1943 we had a total membership of 569. Of this number 315 were paying annual dues; this represented 56% of our total membership. We had at the same time 251 members exempt from annual dues by reason of having previously been elected Life Members. It was apparent that a change was not only desirable but absolutely necessary. The report finally submitted to the Lodge consisted of seven pages of explanation and analysis, and every angle concerning the probable result of a continuation of the then existing by-law was explained. We recall that a few of our members, regardless of the facts disclosed in the report, were unconvinced as to the necessity of making any change but

the majority wisely decided otherwise, and it was resolved that henceforth an amended by-law governing the election of Life Members should be introduced. We must give credit to our Worshipful Master of that day for his personal interest in this important matter and also the tact and perseverance he showed when the report was under discussion. The amended Life Membership by-law is now incorporated in our book of by-laws and need not be included here.

In the course of his year "Ante" followed the example of his predecessors in office by continuing the inter-lodge visit activity and arranging speakers for his meetings. The routine business of the Lodge was carried on, degrees were conferred, but the settlement of the Life Membership problem and the successful introduction of a brand new by-law was unquestionably the most important transaction during the twelve months.

Our Worshipful Master for 1945 was Frank Adamson, who, like "Ante," was a Civil Engineer by profession, and occupied the position of Assistant City Engineer for the City of Winnipeg. Frank received a pleasant surprise at one of his meetings when some visiting brethren were announced as being in waiting. On assembling at the Altar he found the visitors to be his fellow employees in the Civic service and this fraternal compliment was appreciated by Frank more than he was ever able to express in words.

Under the direction of our Master the members of St. John's Lodge took a keen interest in the Masonic Service of Thanksgiving held in the Civic Auditorium, Winnipeg, on Sunday, June 3rd, 1945. This was a meeting arranged by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and was a public acknowledgment by the brethren of the jurisdiction for the Victory in Europe, and once again we solemnly re-dedicated ourselves to work for the accomplishment of the ideals of Craft Freemasonry.

Toward the close of the year Worshipful Brother C. V. Antenbring ("Ante") successfully introduced a motion which was unanimously passed by the members. This was an important matter and as can be realized from the wording of the



amended by-law, was a continuation or rather completion of the work begun the previous year when we changed the conditions in connection with Life Membership. It is of such importance that we include the by-law in full at this time.

Section 47 (A) 1. There shall be established forthwith on the passing of this by-law, and its approval by the Grand Master, a fund, to be known as The Reserve Fund, the uninvested monies of which shall be kept in a separate bank account designated "Reserve Fund Account," to which fund shall be transferred the sum of \$10,000.00 from the assets of the Lodge, and to which shall be transferred such sums as the Lodge may from time to time determine, or as may be directed by the By-Laws of the Lodge, and to which fund shall be added all sums voluntarily contributed to the Lodge by Life Members during the year 1945 or any subsequent period.

2. On the 2nd day of January of each year the sum of \$2.00 for each Life Member of the Lodge as appearing from the Lodge Register as of the 31st day of December of the immediately preceding year shall be transferred from the Reserve Fund to the Current Funds of the Lodge.

3. The balance of the Income and/or Capital of the Reserve Fund shall be used by the Lodge for the purpose of supplementing, insofar as may be necessary, the income of the Lodge in any year in which its income and other assets are insufficient to provide for the current expenses of the Lodge in such year, the intention being that The Reserve Fund shall be primarily a fund to replace the annual receipts of the Lodge, which by reason of the granting of Life Memberships, are no longer available to the Lodge; provided, that the Lodge may at any time transfer monies representing the Capital and/or Income of The Reserve Fund to the Current Funds of the Lodge for any purpose, if authorized so to do by a Resolution passed by the Executive Committee and confirmed by not less than two-thirds of the votes cast at a regular meeting of the Lodge after not less than one month's notice that such resolution will be presented.

4. Forty per cent (40%) of all initiation fees received by

the Lodge after the 1st day of January, A.D. 1946, shall be transferred to The Reserve Fund.

If we want to appraise the influence of Freemasonry in the life of Frank Adamson we can find ample material upon which to work if we but read the message he issued to the members month by month during 1945. We see, from the words he wrote, a man of high ideals and true character. He was beloved by all with whom he came in contact. Less than three months after he delivered the Master's gavel to his successor we received the sad news that Frank would deliver no more of his inspiring messages to the brethren of the Lodge he loved. Mourned by his brethren in Freemasonry, his fellow employees in the Civic service, and by the children he taught in Sunday School, we know he earned the "well done, good and faithful servant," because he was genuine through and through.

We have reached the place in the calendar that marks our seventieth year — and before us lies a period of five years which completes three quarters of a century of continuous Masonic labor in the City of Winnipeg. The days and months of this period are so recent that practically all our membership will recall some work in which he doubtless took a personal part. For this closing period we intend to summarize in a general way some of the happenings which justify a reference in our story of the years.

The year 1946 marked the beginning of a period which indicates that men are turning their attentions to the Masonic Craft. This is evident from the increase in membership, which is not confined to one lodge nor any particular district. We of St. John's have shared in this revival equally with our sister Lodges, and with added numbers knocking at the door, Angus Macdonald, our Worshipful Master, with a fine spirit of brotherhood, welcomed the new initiates to St. John's. It was a busy year but time was found to carry on the inter-lodge visits with unabated vigor. Looking back we can see where the officers elected for 1946 laid foundations and created an interest which is reflected in the ever increasing number who seek to enter the portals of St. John's Lodge No. 4. Here is one more example

of reaping a bountiful harvest from the good seed sown in former days.

The pressure of lodge business, particularly as it concerned the conferring of degrees, is well illustrated from the record of emergent meetings held in 1947 when Jim Dunn was Worshipful Master. No less than eleven such meetings were held during the year. There was a slight resemblance to our experience in the early days when toward the close of the year, eleven brethren were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in one night. At another meeting five candidates were initiated and all of them were sons or sons-in-law of members of our own Lodge. It was a real family gathering.

We visited our daughter Lodge, Emerson Lodge No. 6, in a body and assisted in the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of that Lodge in the border town. As a mark of our esteem and in token of the continued love and affection held by St. John's members for our Emerson brethren, we presented a beautiful Altar Bible to our hosts. The official acknowledgment which followed the formal acceptance in the Lodge is worthy of preservation in our records. Signed by the Worshipful Master, Secretary and Chaplain of Emerson Lodge No. 6, the letter, in part, reads:

"Our friendship with St. John's Lodge No. 4 began over seventy years ago; since the year 1876 many Masonic brethren have come and gone.

"The G.A.O.U. has gathered to himself most of those whose names appear on the pages of the first Register of Emerson Lodge No. 6.

"On the very first page three visitors are recorded, one from Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3, Brother S. Martin; one from St. John's Lodge No. 4, Brother David Evans; a few pages further on we find the name of W. Brother J. W. Harris, Past Master of St. John's Lodge No. 4. Apparently, it was the intention of St. John's Lodge to keep a brotherly eye on the progress being made by Emerson Lodge. Registers and Minute

Books are fragile things, and all too soon names written in pencil or in ink become illegible.

"There is a place where their memory is kept ever green; they have become a part of the foundation of the Temple of Freemasonry; so long as our light continues to shine, just so long will we cherish their memory.

"The kindly spirit that has prompted the Worshipful Master and brethren of St. John's Lodge No. 4 to visit us this evening and to present to the Masons of today and tomorrow, this V.O.S.L., is the same generous spirit which has encouraged and befriended us through the years.

"This evening we are renewing our Covenant of Friendship and Brotherly Love around a sacred Altar. In this Temple are younger Masons unaware perhaps of the many ties which bind us to St. John's Lodge No. 4; it will be our duty and privilege to reveal to these brethren our rich inheritance from the past, in order that they may enjoy the privileges which are ours . . .

. . . "The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of Emerson Lodge No. 6 would like you, Worshipful Sir, to convey to the brethren of St. John's Lodge No. 4, our deep appreciation of our years of friendship and our sincere thanks for this gift of a Volume of the Sacred Law, wherein we are taught the unimportant duties we owe to God, to our neighbour, and to ourselves."

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to maintain the old-time association with the brethren at Emerson and we look forward to a still closer friendship in the coming years. By reason of his removal to Moose Jaw to assume new duties assigned by his employer Jim Dunn demitted his membership in St. John's in December, 1949.

Our next incumbent in the Master's Chair was George Reed, who assumed his office of authority in January, 1948. When George handed the gavel to his successor at the close of a busy year our membership had reached a total of 611. Thus from a low of 570 in 1945 we had made a net gain of 41

in three years. This will give a slight idea of the work done by the officers during the period.

The members decided to spend no more money on St. John's Lodge House situated at 261 Colony Street. It was further decided to demolish the building and make the best possible disposition because it had become a financial burden. This was our decision in 1948. However, early in the following year we were pleasantly surprised, and of course delighted, to receive an offer of \$12,000.00 for the property as it stood. Needless to say the offer was accepted and in due course the transfer made, and subsequently the full amount paid into the treasury of the Lodge. Some of us have many happy memories of our retreat but the passing of the years and changing conditions made it necessary to remove our Lodge activities from the place in which we held many pleasant gatherings.

The Lodge received two bequests from the estates of deceased members, one from the R. E. Embelin estate amounting to \$2,246.65, the other from the estate of Mrs. W. Worrall, \$3,064.97. By resolution it was decided to inaugurate a Lodge Benevolent Fund, the proceeds of these two bequests to form the nucleus. In connection therewith the following resolution was passed: **Benevolent Fund.** (a) There shall be and there is hereby established a fund to be known as the Benevolent Fund, which shall comprise all moneys of the Lodge appropriated to that fund by the Lodge, together with all moneys received by the Lodge for that fund by way of donations, legacies, grants or otherwise howsoever.

(b) The Benevolent Fund, both as to capital and income, shall be used for whatever benevolent purposes affecting the Lodge in the relief of its members and their dependents shall be deemed expedient by a majority of the Committee on Benevolence.

(c) There shall be a committee to be known as the Committee on Benevolence which shall consist of five (5) members of the Lodge who shall hold office for a term of one (1) year. The Committee shall comprise the Worshipful Master, the

Senior Warden, and three Past Masters of the Lodge to be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Senior Warden shall be Chairman of the Committee. The Committee shall invest the moneys of the Benevolent Fund in investments permitted by law for investment of trust funds. The Committee shall have power to expend all or any part of the capital and income of the Benevolent fund for the purposes hereinbefore referred to in whatever manner shall be agreed upon by a majority of the Committee. The Committee shall keep an accurate record of all investments of the Fund and an accurate account of all moneys received and expended by it. The Committee shall make a report of its activities to the Lodge at the last regular meeting of the Lodge in each year and shall make such further reports to the Lodge at such times and in such detail as the Worshipful Master or the Executive Committee may direct."

Looking forward, George Reed decided to begin planning the celebration of our seventy-fifth anniversary which would take place in 1950. He named a special committee with George Macleod as Chairman, and the members were, William Douglas, A. Geo. Cowan, W. Percy White, Thos. L. Dodsworth, C. S. Landon, B. Stuart Parker and C. E. Mansell. What this Committee accomplished may be judged from the programme of our Special Commemoration Services, particulars of which will find a place in the pages of this memorial booklet. (See Appendix "C")

And so we come to the year 1949 and Charlie Landon is Worshipful Master of the Lodge. He did a great deal of mental work and spent many hours in connection with the forthcoming birthday party of the lodge. He was also deeply concerned about having all matters of detail well organized and in ship-shape condition. We are sure Charlie will be well satisfied with the various meetings that were held and the fine type of commemoration programme which the Committee arranged. We know he will appreciate reading this book of memories. It was good that his health permitted him to participate in the anniversary gathering because we believe he will be full to

overflowing with pride in the achievement of his Mother Lodge.

During Charlie's year as Master we had a busy time. At one meeting he arranged to have a beautiful Canadian flag presented to the youngest Lodge in Manitoba, through Frank Sutton, one of our Past Masters, and first Master of Rice Lake Lodge No. 157, meeting at Bissett.

We intimated in the course of our narration that our comment upon the last five years would be fragmentary because the period is so close to our time of commemoration. Our silence has no particular significance and is no reflection on the brethren who held office during the period nor the work they did. Some day another pen will take up the story where we leave off and when that time comes the writer will review the past with brotherly sympathy and fill in the blanks, which are many, because this is only a condensed story of our Lodge and its activities.

Since I commenced to write about the events of the Lodge over the past seventy-five years, word reached me of the death of our Senior Past Master, C. N. Mitchell, who guided the destiny of St. John's Lodge in the year 1895. I recalled the message he sent to the brethren of his Lodge in 1935 at the time we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee. It is appropriate that we close our page with his tribute which is most fitting and timely.

"Sixty years ago many sturdy adventurers, full of energy and ambition, laid the foundation of Western enterprise and culture. They also laid the foundation of St. John's Lodge. It was well and truly laid. Those early pioneers, with strong rough hands, but warm kindly hearts, 'walked upon the level, and acted on the square.' St. John's prospered; it could not do otherwise, guided by such men. Early in the eighties, one remembers with pride the splendid virility and influence of its members in the community.

"Through all the years of apprenticeship, when the members passed to the period of strenuous work, to master the

details of construction, of habits, character, uprightness, loyalty and honour, into the building of the Temple. That Temple whose foundation had been laid by those brethren whose eyes had not yet been fully opened to the wonderful future that was ahead. As Fellowcrafts, men were raised to skilled workers; so also the building progressed.

"The Temple is rising. The workers are faithful. It is becoming beautiful in every detail. The overseers note the fidelity of the Craftsmen and at last the Temple is completed.

"From the rough stones of the quarry to the harmonious building which stands plumb, squared, and levelled, is but the way of the Entered Apprentice to the sublimity of the Master Mason. There is but one way to attain this honor. Every workman must rise to the full measure of his responsibility.

"For know ye not that YE are God's Temple and that the Spirit of God dwelleth within you.

"This is our symphony for St. John's Diamond Jubilee."

And in this our seventy-fifth year of Masonic labor the members of St. John's Lodge repeat, Amen and Amen.

Nothing else remains but to say that our Worshipful Master in this year of Commemoration is George Macleod. He has been General Chairman of the Celebration Committee and instead of sounding praise for his excellent work, the quality of which we shall all judge in person, we will extend to him the privilege of writing the introductory page of this modest record of a pioneer Manitoba Lodge.

EM



## APPENDIX "A"

First minutes of St. John's Lodge No. 4, G.R.M., copied from the original minute book:

Winnipeg, July 7th, 1875.

First regular com' of St. John's Lodge U.D. A.F. & A.M. was held at the Masonic Hall on Wed' Evg' 7th July, 1875.

Dispensation from the Grand Master, G.L.M. was read empowering this Lodge to hold com' & transact Masonic business, confirming the appointment of J. W. Harris as W.M., Arch McNee, S.W., Stuart McDonald, J.W.

After which, the following officers were selected, Wm. Hargrave, Treas'; J. B. Ferguson, Sect; Thos. Nixon, Chap; E. G. Conklin, S.D.; Henry Landerkin, J.D.; Jas. S. Nesbitt, D.C.; Wm. Dodd and Saml Klye, Stds.

The Lodge was then opened in due form on the third degree.

Officers Present: — W. Bro' J. W. Harris, W.M.

“ D. B. Murray, S.W. (pro tem)

“ Stuart McDonald, J.W.

“ Wm. Hargrave, Treas.

“ Jas. Parker, Sect. (pro tem)

“ E. G. Conklin, S.D.

“ H. Landerkin, J.D.

“ W. H. McLean, Tyler,

other members and visitors as per register.

The petition of Bro. H. Hodges, F.C.M., for affiliation was read and referred to Bro's McDonald, Hargrave and Dodd as Committee.

The by-laws of Ancient Landmark Lodge were read clause by clause and adopted with the following corrections,

That in **Art' First**, the words “second Monday of every month” be struck out and “First Wed' in every month” inserted instead.

That in **Art' 11**, all the words after "occupation" as far as "seconded" be struck out.

That in **Art' 12**, the Tyler's remuneration be left blank.

That in **Art' 15**, "Ten dollars" be inserted instead of Five (\$5.00).

That in the seventh clause of the ~~24~~<sup>25</sup>th **Art'**, the words "monthly instalments" be struck out and "in advance semi-annually at the Regular meetings in June and December be inserted."

Also, that the fees be \$3.00 instead of \$6.00.

That in **Art' 28** all the words from the first down to "Lodge Funds", be struck out.

Lodge closed in harmony.

J. W. Harris, W.M.

J. B. Ferguson, Sect.

## APPENDIX "B"

Names of the Charter Members of St. John's Lodge No. 4  
G. R. Manitoba.

NAME	HAILING FROM
John W. Harris    W.M.	Polar Star No. 113    Iowa
Arch'd McNee    S.W.	True Briton No. 14    Canada
Stuart Macdonald    J.W.	Chateauguay No. 28    Quebec
J. B. Ferguson    Secy.	Star in the East No. 164    Canada
Wm. Hargrave    Treas.	Oxford No. 76    "
E. Geo. Conklin    S.D.	Strict Observance No. 27    "
Henry Landerkin    J.D.	Saugeen No. 197    "
S. L. Kyle	Chesterville U.D.    "
Jas. S. Nesbitt	Kilwinning No. 64    "
Jas. Parker	Sterling No. 69    "
John Cuddy	Beaver No. 83    "
W. V. Robson	Colborne No. 93    "
Wm. Dodd	St. John's No. 20    "
Abraham Code	Havelock No. 231    "
David Ede	Oxford No. 76    "
Alex McArthur	Victoria    Quebec
George A. Bayne	Prince Rupert No. 1    Manitoba
Wm. H. McLean	Hiram No. 53    Nova Scotia

NOTE—This list has been copied from the original minute book and each brother signed his name in the order given.

APPENDIX "C"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1950

3.00 p.m.

CRESCENT-FORT ROUGE UNITED CHURCH

Cor. Wardlaw Avenue and Nassau Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba

ORDER OF SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP—Bro. Rev. Geo. F. Dyker

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE LESSON—M.W. Bro. Charles E. Cole

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING—Wor. Bro. Geo. P. Macleod

HYMN

PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

ANTHEM—Choir of Crescent - Fort Rouge United Church,  
under direction of Bro. James C. Duncan.

HYMN

SERMON—"More Men of God"—Bro. Rev. W. G. Martin, D.D.

HYMN

THE BENEDICTION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1950  
FORT GARRY HOTEL

7.30 p.m.—Registration

8.00 p.m.—Open Lodge

Reception of Masters of other Lodges. Introduced by  
V.W. Bro. W. Percy White.

Reception of Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Chas. E. Cole  
and Officers of Grand Lodge. Introduced by  
R.W. Bro. A. Geo. Cowan.

Exemplification of E. A. Degree by Officers, assisted  
by R.W. Bro. K. R. Kennedy; R.W. Bro. A. S.  
McCann; V.W. Bro. T. L. Dodsworth; W. Bro.  
J. W. Tackaberry; V.W. Bro. Frank Sutton and  
W. Bro. R. D. Vance.

After Close of the Lodge, Brethren will adjourn to  
Concert Hall.

Refreshment Hour

BUFFET SUPPER

Mixed Olives

Assorted Cold Meats

Sliced Turkey and Chicken

Potato and Beet Salads

Buttered Rolls

Buttered Brown Bread

Assorted Cheese and Crackers

Coffee

Tea

Milk

O Canada

Musical program, under direction of Bro. J. Kerr  
Wilson.

Brief history of St. John's Lodge, M.W. Bro. Wm.  
Douglas.

Greetings—Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Chas. E. Cole;  
M.W. Bro. Chas. M. Pollock.

Junior Warden's Toast

Auld Lang Syne  
God Save The King

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1950

6.30 p.m.

FORT GARRY HOTEL

M E N U

SEA FOOD COCKTAIL

CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP

ROAST LAMB

MINT SAUCE

CROQUETTE POTATOES

GREEN PEAS

NEAPOLITAN ICE CREAM

ASSORTED CAKES

COFFEE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1950

6.30 p.m.

FORT GARRY HOTEL

PROGRAMME

Chairman, W. Bro. George P. Macleod

O Canada

GRACE—Chaplain Bro. Ken. R. Daviss

DINNER

TOAST—"The King and The Craft"

MUSICAL SELECTION

TOAST—The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba

Response—M.W. Bro. Chas. E. Cole

TOAST—The Province of Manitoba

Response—W. Bro. D. L. Campbell, Premier of  
Manitoba

TOAST—The City of Winnipeg

Response—Bro. Garnet Coulter, Mayor of the City  
of Winnipeg

TOAST—Our Sister Lodges

Response—W. Bro. Len Angus

TOAST—Our Old Timers

Response—Bro. John Wishart

TOAST—Our Youngest Entered Apprentices

Response—Bro. R. G. Ulrich

Bro. D. S. Wilson

MUSICAL SELECTION

ADDRESS—M.W. Bro. Chas. M. Pollock, P.G.M., North Dakota

APPRECIATION—M.W. Bro. Ben C. Parker

JUNIOR WARDEN'S TOAST

Auld Lang Syne

God Save The King

Musical Program under direction of Bro. James C. Duncan

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1950  
FORT GARRY HOTEL

75th ANNIVERSARY — LADIES' NIGHT

6.30 p.m. .... Dinner

8.30 p.m. .... Musical Program

9.30 p.m. .... Dancing, Cards

Auld Lang Syne

God Save The King



## PAST MASTERS

1876—J. W. HARRIS*	1914—W. R. McCONNELL
1877—ARCHIBALD McNEEL*	1915—C. E. SUGDEN*
1878—HUGH McCOWAN*	1916—JAS. MACKIE
1879—T. W. ROBINSON*	1917—W. C. BIRT
1880—A. J. BELCH*	1918—WM. CARR
1881—ALEX. McGOWAN*	1919—JAS. LORIMER
1882—JAMES LEVY*	1920—A. R. TAYLOR
1883—W. H. SEACH*	1921—FRANK B. THOMPSON
1884—W. J. PTOLEMY*	1922—J. S. McLAUGHLIN*
1885—H. J. RAYMER*	1923—L. ROSCOE BAKER*
1886—A. L. YOUNG*	1924—T. A. CONNELL
1887—J. A. PAYNE*	1925—WM. ALDRIDGE
1888—J. A. PAYNE*	1926—W. PERCY WHITE
1889—ARTHUR STEWART*	1927—R. M. PINFOLD
1890—A. A. AIRD*	1928—E. J. THOMAS
1891—J. H. BRADEN*	1929—BEN C. PARKER
1892—J. T. BLAER*	1930—WILLIAM WATSON
1893—T. W. TAYLOR*	1931—O. L. BEST
1894—S. G. G. THOMPSON*	1932—E. LANCE JUKES
1895—C. N. MITCHELL*	1933—WILSON E. McLEAN
1896—WM. BRADEN*	1934—THOS. L. DODSWORTH
1897—HUMPHREY HART*	1935—K. R. KENNEDY
1898—ANGUS GRANT*	1936—J. G. SHIELDS
1899—D. A. SULLIVAN*	1937—SYD. FOREMAN*
1900—H. W. CHALFANT*	1938—J. W. TACKABERRY
1901—D. E. McKINNON*	1939—F. R. SUTTON
1902—J. T. BRAGG	1940—R. D. VANCE
1903—THOS. JONES*	1941—E. HOWARD BROWN
1904—H. R. BARREIT*	1942—C. W. BROCK
1905—E. SCOTT SHIELDS*	1943—A. S. McCANN
1906—P. E. KELLEIT*	1944—G. V. ANTENBRING
1907—J. S. NICHOLAS*	1945—F. S. ADAMSON*
1908—J. G. HOSSACK*	1946—ANGUS McDONALD
1909—J. G. HOSSACK*	1947—JAMES C. DUNN
1910—W. DOUGLAS	1948—GEORGE REED
1911—T. H. HOOPER*	1949—C. S. LANDON
1912—A. G. COWAN	1950—GEORGE P. MACLEOD
1913—W. R. McCONNELL	

\*Deceased